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ARTES SCIENTIA VERITAS









Smith & Weller
INQUIRY *Dr. J. Bryce 1824*
INTO THE

ORIGINAL of our IDEAS
OF
BEAUTY and VIRTUE;
In Two TREATISES.

- I. Concerning BEAUTY, ORDER,
HARMONY, DESIGN.
II. Concerning MORAL GOOD and
EVIL.

The Third Edition, Corrected.

Itaque eorum ipsorum quæ aspectu sentiuntur, nullum aliud animal pulchritudinem, venustatem, convenientiam partium sentit. Quam similitudinem natura ratioque ab oculis ad animum transferens, multo etiam magis pulchritudinem, constantiam, ordinem in consiliis, factisque conservandum putat. Quibus ex rebus conflat & efficitur id quod quaerimus honestum: Quod etiam si nobilitatum non sit, tamen honestum sic: quodque etiam si à nullo laudetur, naturâ est laudabile. Formam quidem ipsam & tanquam faciem honesti vides, quæ si oculis cerneretur, mirabiles amores excitaret sapientix. *Cic. de Off. lib. I. c. 4.*

L O N D O N:

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11/6/25



TO

HIS EXCELLENCY

J O H N,

Lord CARTERET,

Lord Lieutenant of IRELAND.

May it please your Excellency,

WHEN I publish'd
these Papers, I had
so little Confidence
of their Success, that I was
unwilling to own them; and

A 2

what

what I was unwilling myself to own, I durst not presume to inscribe to any great Name.

Y O U R Excellency's favourable Reception of them, soon put me out of all Fears about their Success with the wiser and better Part of the World; and since this has given me Assurance to own them, I humbly presume to inscribe them in this second Edition to your Excellency, that I may have at once an Opportunity of expressing the sincerest Gratitude for the Notice you were pleas'd to take of me, and have the Pleasure also of letting the
World

DEDICATION.

V

World know that this small
Work has your Excellency's
Approbation.

THE Praise bestow'd by
Persons of real Merit and
Discernment, is allow'd by all
to give a noble and rational
Pleasure. Your Excellency
first made me feel this in
the most lively manner; and
it will be a Pleasure as last-
ing as it is great: 'twill ever
be matter of the highest
Joy and Satisfaction to me,
that I am Author of a Book
my LORD CARTERET ap-
proves.

I KNOW, my Lord, that
much of your Commendation
is

is to be attributed to your own Humanity: You can intirely approve the Works of those alone, who can think and speak on these Subjects as justly as your self; and that is what few, if any, even of those who spend their Lives in such Contemplations, are able to do. In the Conversation, with which your Excellency has been pleas'd to honour me, I could not, I own, without the utmost surprize, observe so intimate an Acquaintance with the most valuable Writings of contemplative Men, Antient and Modern; so just a Taste of what is excellent in the Ingenious Arts,
in

in so young a Man, amidst the Hurry of an active Life. Forgive me, my Lord, that I mention this part of your Character : 'tis so uncommon that it deserves the highest Admiration ; and 'tis the only one which an obscure Philosopher, who has receiv'd the greatest Obligations from your Excellency, can with any Propriety take notice of.

THOSE other great Endowments which have enabled you, even in Youth, to discharge the most difficult Employments, with the highest Honour to your self, and Advantage to your Country, I dare not presume to describe.

scribe. He who attempts to do Justice to so great and good a Character, ought himself to be one of uncommon Merit and Distinction : and yet the ablest Panegyrist would find it difficult to add any thing to your Excellency's Fame. The Voices of NATIONS proclaim your Worth. I am,

May it please your Excellency,

Your most obliged,

Most obedient, and

Most devoted humble Servant,

Dublin,
June 19.
1725.

Francis Hutcheson.

T H E
P R E F A C E.

THERE is no part of Philosophy of more importance, than a just Knowledge of Human Nature, and its various Powers and Dispositions. Our late Inquiries have been very much employ'd about our Understanding, and the several Methods of obtaining Truth. We generally acknowledge, that the Importance of any Truth is nothing else than its Moment, or Efficacy to make Men happy, or to give them the greatest and most lasting Pleasure ; and Wisdom denotes only a Capacity of pursuing this End by the best Means. It must surely then be of the greatest importance, to have distinct Conceptions of this End it self, as well as of the Means necessary to obtain it ; that we may find out which are the
a
greatest

The P R E F A C E.

greatest and most lasting Pleasures, and not employ our Reason, after all our laborious Improvements of it, in trifling Pursuits. It is to be fear'd indeed, that most of our Studys, without this Inquiry, will be of very little use to us; for they seem to have scarce any other tendency than to lead us into speculative Knowledge it self. Nor are we distinctly told how it is that Knowledge, or Truth, is pleasant to us.

THIS Consideration put the Author of the following Papers upon inquiring into the various Pleasures which Human Nature is capable of receiving. We shall generally find in our modern philosophick Writings, nothing farther on this Head, than some bare Division of them into Sensible, and Rational, and some trite Common-place Arguments to prove the latter more valuable than the former. Our sensible Pleasures are slightly pass'd over, and explain'd only by some Instances in Tastes, Smells, Sounds, or such like, which Men of any tolerable Reflection generally look upon as very trifling.

trifling Satisfaction. Our rational Pleasures have had much the same kind of treatment. We are seldom taught any other Notion of rational Pleasure than that which we have upon reflecting on our Possession, or Claim to those Objects, which may be Occasions of Pleasure. Such Objects we call advantageous; but Advantage, or Interest, cannot be distinctly conceiv'd, till we know what those Pleasures are which advantageous Objects are apt to excite; and what Senses or Powers of Perception we have with respect to such Objects. We may perhaps find such an Inquiry of more importance in Morals, to prove what we call the Reality of Virtue, or that it is the surest Happiness of the Agent, than one would at first imagine.

I N reflecting upon our external Senses, we plainly see, that our Perceptions of Pleasure, or Pain, do not depend directly on our Will. Objects do not please us, according as we incline they should. The presence of some Objects necessarily pleases us, and

the presence of others as necessarily displeases us. Nor can we by our Will, any otherwise procure Pleasure, or avoid Pain, than by procuring the former kind of Objects, and avoiding the latter. By the very Frame of our Nature the one is made the occasion of Delight, and the other of Dissatisfaction.

T H E same Observation will hold in all our other Pleasures and Pains. For there are many other sorts of Objects, which please, or displease us as necessarily, as material Objects do when they operate upon our Organs of Sense. There is scarcely any Object which our Minds are employ'd about, which is not thus constituted the necessary occasion of some Pleasure or Pain. Thus we find our selves pleas'd with a regular Form, a piece of Architecture or Painting, a Composition of Notes, a Theorem, an Action, an Affection, a Character. And we are conscious that this Pleasure necessarily arises from the Contemplation of the Idea, which is then present
to

THE PREFACE.

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to our Minds, with all its Circumstances, altho some of these Ideas have nothing of what we commonly call sensible Perception in them; and in those which have, the Pleasure arises from some Uniformity, Order, Arrangement, Imitation; and not from the simple Ideas of Colour, or Sound, or mode of Extension separately consider'd.

THESE Determinations to be pleas'd with any Forms, or Ideas which occur to our Observation, the Author chooses to call SENSES; distinguishing them from the Powers which commonly go by that Name, by calling our Power of perceiving the Beauty of Regularity, Order, Harmony, an INTERNAL SENSE; and that Determination to approve Affections, Actions, or Characters of rational Agents, which we call virtuous, he marks by the name of a MORAL SENSE.

*HIS principal Design is to shew,
“ That Human Nature was not left
“ quite indifferent in the affair of
“ Virtue, to form to it self Observa-
“ tions*

“ tions concerning the Advantage, or
 “ Disadvantage of *Actions*, and accord-
 “ ingly to regulate its *Conduct*.” The
 weakness of our Reason, and the avo-
 cations arising from the Infirmities
 and Necessities of our Nature, are so
 great, that very few Men could ever
 have form’d those long Deductions of
 Reason, which shew some *Actions* to
 be in the whole advantageous to the
 Agent, and their Contrarys pernicious.
 The AUTHOR of Nature has much
 better furnish’d us for a virtuous Con-
 duct, than our Moralists seem to ima-
 gine, by almost as quick and powerful
 Instructions, as we have for the pre-
 servation of our Bodys. He has given
 us strong Affections to be the Springs
 of each virtuous *Action*; and made
 Virtue a lovely form, that we might
 easily distinguish it from its contrary,
 and be made happy by the pursuit of
 it.

THIS moral Sense of Beauty in
Actions and Affections, may appear
 strange at first View. Some of our
 Moralists themselves are offended at it
 in

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in my LORD SHAFTESBURY; so much are they accusom'd to deduce every Approbation, or Aversion, from rational Views of Interest, (except it be merely in the Simple Ideas of the external Senses) and have such a Horror at innate Ideas, which they imagine this borders upon. But this moral Sense has no relation to innate Ideas, as will appear in the second Treatise. Our Gentlemen of good Taste, can tell us of a great many Senses, Tastes, and Relishes for Beauty; Harmony, Imitation in Painting and Poetry; and may not we find too in Mankind a Relish for a Beauty in Characters, in Manners? I doubt we have made Philosophy, as well as Religion, by our foolish management of it, so austere and ungainly a Form, that a Gentleman cannot easily bring himself to like it; and those who are strangers to it, can scarcely bear to hear our Description of it. So much it is changed from what was once the delight of the finest Gentlemen among the Antients, and

a 4 their

their Recreation after the Hurry of publick Affairs !

IN the first Treatise, the Author perhaps in some Instances has gone too far, in supposing a greater Agreement of Mankind in their Sense of Beauty, than Experience will confirm; but all he is solicitous about is to shew,
“ That there is some Sense of Beauty
“ natural to Men; that we find as
“ great an Agreement of Men in their
“ Relishes of Forms, as in their exter-
“ nal Senses, which all agree to be
“ natural; and that Pleasure or
“ Pain, Delight or Aversion, are
“ naturally join’d to their Perceptions.”
If the Reader be convinc’d of such Determinations of the Mind to be pleas’d with Forms, Proportions, Resemblances, Theorems; it will be no difficult matter to apprehend another superior Sense, natural also to Men, determining them to be pleas’d with Actions, Characters, Affections. This is the moral Sense, which makes the Subject of the second Treatise.

THE proper Occasions of Perception by the external Senses, occur to us as soon as we come into the World; whence perhaps we easily look upon these Senses to be natural: but the Objects of the superior Senses of Beauty and Virtue generally do not. It is probably some little time before Children reflect, or at least let us know that they reflect upon Proportion and Similitude; upon Affections, Characters, Tempers; or come to know the external Actions which are Evidences of them. Hence we imagine that their Sense of Beauty, and their moral Sentiments of Actions, must be entirely owing to Instruction, and Education; whereas it is as easy to conceive, how a Character, a Temper, as soon as they are observ'd, may be constituted by NATURE the necessary occasion of Pleasure, or an Object of Approbation, as a Taste or a Sound; tho these Objects present themselves to our Observation sooner than the other.

THE first Impression of these Papers was so well receiv'd, that the
 Author

*Author hopes it will be no offence to any who are concern'd in the Memory of the late Lord Viscount MOLESWORTH, if he lets his Readers know that he was the Noble Person mention'd in the Preface to the first Edition, and that their being published was owing to his Approbation of them. It was from him he had that shrewd Objection, which the Reader may find in the first Treatise *; besides many other Remarks in the frequent Conversations with which he honour'd the Author; by which that Treatise was very much improved beyond what it was in the Draught presented to him. The Author retains the most grateful Sense of his singular Civilities, and of the Pleasure and Improvement he received in his Conversation; and is still fond of expressing his grateful Remembrance of him: but,*

Id cinerem, & Manes credas curare sepultos ?

* *Stat. v. Art. 2. the last Paragraph.*

TO be concern'd in this Book can be no honour to a Person so justly celebrated for the most generous Sentiments of Virtue and Religion, deliver'd with the most manly Eloquence : yet it would not be just toward the World, should the Author conceal his Obligations to the Reverend Mr. EDWARD SYNG, not only for revising these Papers, when they stood in great need of an accurate Review, but for suggesting several just Amendments in the general Scheme of Morality. The Author was much confirm'd in his Opinion of the Justness of these Thoughts, upon finding that this Gentleman had fallen into the same way of thinking before him ; and will ever look upon his Friendship as one of the greatest Advantages and Pleasures of his Life.

TO recommend the Lord SHAFTESBURY's Writings to the World, is a very needless Attempt. They will be esteem'd while any Reflection remains among Men. It is indeed to be wished, that he had abstained from
mixing

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mixing with such Noble Performances, some Prejudices he had receiv'd against Christianity; a Religion which gives us the truest Idea of Virtue, and recommends the Love of GOD, and of MANKIND, as the Sum of all true Religion. How would it have moved the Indignation of that ingenious Nobleman, to have found a dissolute set of Men, who relish nothing in Life but the lowest and most sordid Pleasures, searching into his Writings for those Insinuations against Christianity, that they might be the less restrained from their Debaucherys; when at the same time their low Minds are incapable of relishing those noble Sentiments of Virtue and Honour, which he has placed in so lovely a Light!

WHATEVER Faults the ingenious may find with this Performance, the Author hopes no body will find any thing in it contrary to Religion, or good Manners: and he shall be well pleased if he gives the learned World an occasion of examining more thoroughly these Subjects, which are, he
presumes,

presumes, of very considerable Importance. The chief Ground of his Assurance that his Opinions in the main are just, is this, That as he took the first Hints of them from some of the greatest Writers of Antiquity, so the more he has convers'd with them, he finds his Illustrations the more conformable to their Sentiments.

IN the first Edition of this Book there were some Mistakes in one or two of the Instances borrowed from other Sciences, to a perfect Knowledge of which the Author does not pretend; nor would he now undertake that this Edition is every way faultless. He hopes that those who are studious of the true measures of Life, may find his Ideas of Virtue and Happiness tolerably just; and that the profound Connoisseurs will pardon a few Faults, in the Illustrations borrow'd from their Arts, upon which his Arguments do not depend.

IN this Third Edition, what Alterations are made are partly owing to the Objections of some Gentlemen,
who

who wrote very keenly against several Principles in this Book. The Author was convinced of some inaccurate Expressions, which are now altered; and some Arguments, he hopes, are now made clearer: but he has not yet seen cause to renounce any of the Principles maintained in it. Nor is there any thing of consequence added, except in Sect. II. of Treatise 2d; and the same Reasoning is found in Sect. I. of the Essay on the Passions.

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A N

I N Q U I R Y

CONCERNING

BEAUTY, ORDER, &c.

S E C T. I.

*Concerning some Powers of Perception,
distinct from what is generally un-
derstood by Sensation.*

TO make the following Observations understood, it may be necessary to premise some *Definitions*, and *Observations*, either universally acknowledg'd, or sufficiently prov'd by many Writers both antient and modern, concerning our Perceptions called *Sensations*, and the Actions of the Mind consequent upon them.

Art. I. THOSE Ideas which are rais'd in Sensation.
the Mind upon the presence of external Ob-
jects,

Sect. 1. jects, and their acting upon our Bodys, are call'd *Sensations*. We find that the Mind in such Cases is passive, and has not Power directly to prevent the Perception or Idea, or to vary it at its Reception, as long as we continue our Bodys in a state fit to be acted upon by the external Object.


Different Senses.

II. WHEN two Perceptions are intirely different from each other, or agree in nothing but the general Idea of *Sensation*, we call the Powers of receiving those different Perceptions, *different Senses*. Thus *Seeing* and *Hearing* denote the different Powers of receiving the Ideas of Colours and Sounds. And altho Colours have great Differences among themselves, as also have Sounds; yet there is a greater Agreement among the most opposite Colours, than between any Colour and a Sound: Hence we call all Colours Perceptions of the same Sense. All the several Senses seem to have their distinct Organs, except *Feeling*, which is in some degree diffus'd over the whole Body.

The Mind how active.

III. THE Mind has a Power of *compound-
ing* Ideas, which were receiv'd separately; of *comparing* Objects by means of the Ideas, and of observing their *Relations* and *Proportions*; of *enlarging* and *diminishing* its Ideas at pleasure, or in any certain *Ratio*, or Degree; and of considering *separately* each of the simple Ideas, which might per-
haps


BEAUTY, ORDER, &c. 3

haps have been impress'd jointly in the Sen-Sect. 1. sation. This last Operation we commonly  call *Abstraction*.

IV. THE Ideas of *Substances* are com-*Substances*. pounded of the various simple Ideas jointly impress'd, when they presented themselves to our Senses. We define Substances only by enumerating these sensible Ideas: And such Definitions may raise an Idea clear enough of the Substance in the Mind of one who never immediately perceiv'd the Substance; provided he has separately receiv'd by his Senses all the simple Ideas which are in the Composition of the complex one of the Substance defin'd: But if there be any simple Ideas which he has not receiv'd, or if he wants any of the *Senses* necessary for the Perception of them, no Definition can raise any simple Idea which has not been before perceived by the *Senses*.

V. HENCE it follows, "That when *In-^{Education}struction, Education, or Prejudice* of any *Instructi-^{on}* kind, raise any Desire or Aversion toward an Object, this Desire or Aversion must be founded upon an Opinion of some Perfection, or of some Deficiency in those *Qualitys*, for Perception of which we have the proper Senses." Thus if *Beauty* be desir'd by one who has not the Sense of *Sight*, the Desire must be rais'd by some apprehended Regularity of *Figure, Sweet-*
ness

4 *An INQUIRY concerning*

ness of Voice, Smoothness, or Softness, or some
 *other Quality perceivable by the other Senses, without relation to the Ideas of Colour.*

Pleasure.
Pain.

VI. MANY of our sensitive Perceptions are pleasant, and many painful, immediately, and that without any knowledge of the Cause of this Pleasure or Pain, or how the Objects excite it, or are the Occasions of it; or without seeing to what farther Advantage or Detriment the Use of such Objects might tend: Nor would the most accurate Knowledge of these things vary either the Pleasure or Pain of the Perception, however it might give a rational Pleasure distinct from the sensible; or might raise a distinct Joy, from a prospect of farther Advantage in the Object, or Aversion, from an apprehension of Evil.

Different
Ideas.

VII. THE *simple Ideas* rais'd in different Persons by the same Object, are probably some way different, when they disagree in their Approbation or Dislike; and in the same Person, when his *Fancy* at one time differs from what it was at another. This will appear from reflecting on those Objects, to which we have now an Aversion, tho they were formerly agreeable: And we shall generally find that there is some accidental *Conjunction* of a disagreeable Idea, which always recurs with the Object; as in those Wines to which Men acquire an Aversion,

version, after they have taken them in an Sect. 1.
 • Emetick Preparation, we are conscious that the *Idea* is alter'd from what it was when that Wine was agreeable, by the Conjunction of the Ideas of Loathing and Sickness of Stomach. The like Change of *Idea* may be insensibly made by the Change of our Bodys as we advance in Years, or when we are accustomed to any Object, which may occasion an Indifference toward Meats we were fond of in our Childhood; and may make some Objects cease to raise the disagreeable Ideas, which they excited upon our first use of them. Many of our simple Perceptions are disagreeable only thro' the too great *Intenseness* of the Quality: thus moderate Light is agreeable, very strong Light may be painful; moderate Bitter may be pleasant, a higher Degree may be offensive. A Change in our Organs will necessarily occasion a Change in the *Intenseness* of the Perception at least; nay sometimes will occasion a quite contrary Perception: Thus a warm Hand shall feel that Water cold, which a cold Hand shall feel warm.

WE shall not find it perhaps so easy to account for the Diversity of Fancy about more *complex Ideas* of Objects, in which we regard many Ideas of different Senses at once; as some Perceptions of those call'd *primary Qualities*, and some *secondary*, as explain'd by Mr. LOCKE: for instance,

6 *An INQUIRY concerning*

Se&. I. in the different Fancys about *Archibecture*,
 ~~~~~ *Gardening*, *Dress*. Of the two former we  
 shall offer something in *Se&. VI.* As to  
*Dress*, we may generally account for the  
 Diversity of Fancys from a like Conjunction  
 of Ideas: Thus, if either from any thing  
 in Nature, or from the Opinion of our  
 Country or Acquaintance, the fancying of  
*glaring Colours* be look'd upon as an evi-  
 dence of Levity, or of any other evil Qua-  
 lity of Mind; or if any *Colour* or *Fashion* be  
 commonly us'd by Rusticks, or by Men of  
 any disagreeable Profession, Employment,  
 or Temper; these additional Ideas may re-  
 cur constantly with that of the *Colour* or  
*Fashion*, and cause a constant Dislike to  
 them in those who join the additional Ideas,  
 altho the Colour or Form be no way dis-  
 agreeable of themselves, and actually do  
 please others who join no such Ideas to  
 them. But there does not seem to be any  
 Ground to believe such a Diversity in hu-  
 man Minds, as that the same simple Idea  
 or Perception should give pleasure to one  
 and pain to another, or to the same Person  
 at different times; not to say that it seems  
 a Contradiction, that the same simple Idea  
 should do so.

*Complex  
 Ideas.*

VIII. THE only Pleasure of Sense, which  
 many Philosophers seem to consider, is that  
 which accompanys the simple Ideas of Sen-  
 sation: But there are far greater Pleasures  
 in

## BEAUTY, ORDER, &c. 7

in those complex Ideas of Objects, which Sect. 1. obtain the Names of *Beautiful, Regular, Harmonious*. Thus every one acknowledges he is more delighted with a fine Face, a just Picture, than with the View of any one Colour, were it as strong and lively as possible; and more pleas'd with a Prospect of the Sun arising among settled Clouds, and colouring their Edges with a starry Hemisphere, a fine Landskip, a regular Building, than with a clear blue Sky, a smooth Sea, or a large open Plain, not diversify'd by Woods, Hills, Waters, Buildings: And yet even these latter Appearances are not quite *simple*. So in Musick, the Pleasure of *fine Composition* is incomparably greater than that of any one Note, how sweet, full, or swelling soever.

IX. LET it be observ'd, that in the following Papers, the Word *Beauty* is taken for the *Idea rais'd in us*, and a *Sense* of Beauty for our *Power of receiving this Idea*. *Harmony* also denotes our *pleasant Ideas arising from Composition of Sounds*, and a good *Ear* (as it is generally taken) a *Power of perceiving this Pleasure*. In the following Sections, an Attempt is made to discover "what is the *immediate Occasion* of these "pleasant Ideas, or what real *Quality* in "the Objects ordinarily excites them."

Sect. I.

Internal  
Sense.

X. IT is of no consequence whether we call these Ideas of *Beauty* and *Harmony*, Perceptions of the *External Senses* of Seeing and Hearing, or not. I should rather choose to call our Power of perceiving these Ideas, an INTERNAL SENSE, were it only for the Convenience of distinguishing them from other Sensations of Seeing and Hearing, which Men may have without Perception of *Beauty and Harmony*. It is plain from Experience, that many Men have in the common meaning, the Senses of Seeing and Hearing perfect enough; they perceive all the *simple Ideas* separately, and have their Pleasures; they distinguish them from each other, such as one Colour from another, either quite different, or the stronger or fainter of the same Colour, when they are plac'd beside each other, altho they may often confound their *Names* when they occur a-part from each other; as some do the Names of *Green* and *Blue*: they can tell in separate Notes, the *higher, lower, sharper* or *flatter*, when separately sounded; in Figures they discern the *Length, Breadth, Wideness* of each Line, Surface, Angle; and may be as capable of hearing and seeing at great distances as any Men whatsoever: And yet perhaps they shall find no Pleasure in Musical Compositions, in Painting, Architecture, natural Landskip; or but a very weak one in comparison of what others


## BEAUTY, ORDER, &c. 9

thers enjoy from the same Objects. This Sect. 1. greater Capacity of receiving such pleasant Ideas we commonly call a *fine Genius* or *Taste*: In Musick we seem universally to acknowledge something like a distinct Sense from the External one of Hearing, and call it a *good Ear*; and the like distinction we should probably acknowledge in other Objects, had we also got distinct Names to denote these *Powers* of Perception by.

XI. THERE will appear another Reason <sup>*Differens*</sup> perhaps hereafter, for calling this Power of <sup>*from Ex-*</sup> perceiving the Ideas of *Beauty*, an *Internal* <sup>*ternal.*</sup> *Sense*, from this, that in some other Affairs, where our *External Senses* are not much concern'd, we discern a sort of Beauty, very like, in many respects, to that observ'd in sensible Objects, and accompany'd with like Pleasure: Such is that *Beauty* perceiv'd in *Theorems*, or universal Truths, in *general Causes*, and in some *extensive Principles* of Action.

XII. LET every one here consider, how different we must suppose the *Perception* to be, with which a Poet is transported upon the Prospect of any of those Objects of *natural Beauty*, which ravish us even in his Description; from that cold lifeless *Conception* which we imagine in a *dull Critick*, or one of the *Virtuosi*, without what we call a *fine Taste*. This latter Class of Men may have

Sect. 1. have greater Perfection in that Knowledge, which is deriv'd from external Sensation; they can tell all the *specifick Differences* of Trees, Herbs, Minerals, Metals; they know the *Form* of every Leaf, Stalk, Root, Flower, and Seed of all the Species, about which the Poet is often very ignorant: And yet the Poet shall have a much more delightful Perception of the Whole; and not only the Poet but any Man of a fine Taste. Our External Senses may by measuring teach us all the Proportions of Architecture to the Tenth of an Inch, and the Situation of every Muscle in the human Body; and a good Memory may retain these: and yet there is still something farther necessary, not only to make a Man a compleat Master in *Architecture, Painting* or *Statuary*, but even a tolerable Judge in these Works; or capable of receiving the highest Pleasure in contemplating them. Since then there are such different Powers of Perception, where what are commonly called the *External Senses* are the same; since the most accurate Knowledge of what the External Senses discover, often does not give the Pleasure of Beauty or Harmony, which yet one of a *good Taste* will enjoy at once without much *Knowledge*; we may justly use another Name for these higher, and more delightful Perceptions of Beauty and Harmony, and call the *Power* of receiving such Impressions, an *Internal Sense*. The Difference of the Perceptions seems

seems sufficient to vindicate the Use of a Sect. 1. different Name, especially when we are told  in what meaning the Word is applied.

XIII. THIS superior Power of Perception is justly called *a Sense*, because of its Affinity to the other Senses in this, that the Pleasure does not arise from any *Knowledge* of Principles, Proportions, Causes, or of the Usefulness of the Object; but strikes us at first with the Idea of Beauty: nor does the most accurate *Knowledge* increase this Pleasure of Beauty, however it may superadd a distinct rational Pleasure from prospects of *Advantage*, or from the Increase of Knowledge \*.

XIV. AND farther, the Ideas of Beauty and Harmony, like other sensible Ideas, are necessarily pleasant to us, as well as immediately so; neither can any Resolution of our own, nor any *Prospect* of Advantage or Disadvantage, vary the Beauty or Deformity of an Object: For as in the external Sensations, no View of *Interest* will make an Object grateful, nor View of *Detriment*, distinct from immediate *Pain* in the Perception, make it disagreeable to the Sense; so propose the whole World as a *Reward*, or *threaten* the greatest Evil, to make us approve a deform'd Object, or disapprove a

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\* See above, Art. 6.

Sect. 1. beautiful one ; Diffimulation may be procur'd by Rewards or Threatnings, or we may in external Conduct abstain from any *pursuit* of the Beautiful, and pursue the Deform'd ; but our *Sentiments* of the Forms, and our *Perceptions*, would continue invariably the same.

*This Sense antecedent to, and distinct from prospects of interest.* XV. HENCE it plainly appears, “ that some Objects are *immediately* the Occasions of this Pleasure of Beauty, and that we have Senses fitted for perceiving it ; “ and that it is distinct from that *Joy* which “ arises upon prospect of Advantage.” Nay, do not we often see Convenience and Use neglected to obtain Beauty, without any other prospect of *Advantage* in the Beautiful Form, than the suggesting the pleasant Ideas of Beauty ? Now this shews us, that however we may *pursue* beautiful Objects from Self-love, with a view to obtain the Pleasures of Beauty, as in Architecture, Gardening, and many other Affairs ; yet there must be a *Sense* of Beauty, antecedent to Prospects even of this Advantage, without which Sense, these Objects would not be thus *Advantageous*, nor excite in us this Pleasure which constitutes them advantageous. Our *Sense* of Beauty from Objects, by which they are constituted good to us, is very distinct from our *Desire* of them when they are thus constituted : Our *Desire* of Beauty may be counter-balanc'd by Rewards or Threatnings, but never our *Sense* of

it; even as Fear of Death may make us desire Sect. 1. a bitter Potion, or neglect those Meats which the *Sense* of Taste would recommend as pleasant; and yet no prospect of Advantage, or Fear of Evil, can make that Potion agreeable to the *Sense*, or Meat disagreeable to it, which was not so antecedently to this Prospect. The same holds true of the Sense of Beauty and Harmony; that the *Pursuit* of such Objects is frequently neglected, from prospects of Advantage, Aversion to Labour, or any other Motive of Interest, does not prove that we have no *Sense* of Beauty, but only that our Desire of it may be counterbalanc'd by a stronger Desire.

XVI. HAD we no such *Sense* of Beauty and Harmony; Houses, Gardens, Dress, Equipage, might have been recommended to us as convenient, fruitful, warm, easy; but never as *beautiful*: And in Faces I see nothing which could please us, but Liveliness of Colour, and Smoothness of Surface: And yet nothing is more certain, than that all these Objects are recommended under quite different *Views* on many Occasions: And Custom, Education, or Example could never give us *Perceptions* distinct from those of the Senses which we had the use of before, or recommend Objects under another *Conception* than grateful to \* them. But of

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\* See Art. 5.



Sect. 1. the Influence of Custom, Education, Example, upon the Sense of Beauty, we shall treat below \*.

Beauty  
Original  
or Compa-  
rative.

XVII. BEAUTY is either *Original* or *Comparative*; or, if any like the Terms better, *Absolute*, or *Relative*: <Only let it be observ'd, that by *Absolute* or *Original* Beauty, is not understood any Quality suppos'd to be in the Object, which should of itself be beautiful, without relation to any Mind which perceives it: For Beauty, like other Names of sensible Ideas, properly denotes the *Perception* of some Mind; so *Cold*, *Hot*, *Sweet*, *Bitter*, denote the Sensations in our Minds, to which perhaps there is no resemblance in the Objects, which excite these Ideas in us, however we generally imagine otherwise.> The Ideas of Beauty and Harmony being excited upon our *Perception* of some *primary Quality*, and having relation to *Figure* and *Time*, may indeed have a nearer resemblance to Objects, than these Sensations, which seem not so much any *Pictures* of Objects, as *Modifications* of the perceiving Mind; and <yet were there no Mind with a *Sense* of Beauty to contemplate Objects, I see not how they could be call'd *beautiful*.> We

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\* Sect. 7.

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therefore by \* *Absolute Beauty* understand Sect. 1. only that Beauty, which we perceive in Objects without *comparison* to any thing external, of which the Object is suppos'd an Imitation, or Picture; such as that Beauty perceiv'd from the *Works of Nature, artificial Forms, Figures, Theorems. Comparative or Relative Beauty* is that which we perceive in Objects, commonly considered as *Imitations or Resemblances* of something else. These two Kinds of Beauty employ the three following Sections.

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\* This division of Beauty is taken from the different Foundations of Pleasure to our Sense of it, rather than from the Objects themselves: for most of the following Instances of relative Beauty have also absolute Beauty; and many of the Instances of absolute Beauty, have also relative Beauty in some respect or other. But we may distinctly consider these two Fountains of Pleasure, Uniformity in the Object it self, and Resemblance to some Original.

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## S E C T. II.

## Of Original or Absolute Beauty.

*Sense of  
Men.*

I. SINCE it is certain that we have *Ideas* of Beauty and Harmony, let us examine what *Quality* in Objects excites these *Ideas*, or is the occasion of them. And let it be here observ'd, that our Inquiry is only about the *Qualities* which are beautiful to *Men*; or about the Foundation of their *Sense* of Beauty: for, as was above hinted, Beauty has always relation to the *Sense* of some Mind; and when we afterwards shew how generally the Objects which occur to us, are *beautiful*, we mean that such Objects are agreeable to the *Sense* of *Men*: for there are many Objects which ~~seem~~ no way beautiful to *Men*, and yet other *Animals* seem delighted with them; they may have *Senses* otherwise constituted than those of *Men*, and may have the *Ideas* of Beauty excited by Objects of a quite different Form. We see *Animals* fitted for every Place; and what to *Men* appears rude and shapeless, or loathsome, may be to them a *Paradise*.

II. THAT we may more distinctly discover the general *Foundation* or Occasion of the *Ideas* of Beauty among *Men*, it will be necessary

necessary to consider it first in its *simpler* Sect. 2. Kinds, such as occurs to us in regular Figures; and we may perhaps find that the same Foundation extends to all the more complex Species of it.


III. THE Figures which excite in us the Ideas of Beauty, seem to be those in which there is *Uniformity amidst Variety*. There are many Conceptions of Objects which are agreeable upon other accounts, such as *Grandure, Novelty, Sanctity*, and some others, which shall be mention'd hereafter \*. But what we call Beautiful in Objects, to speak in the Mathematical Style, seems to be in a compound *Ratio of Uniformity and Variety*: so that where the *Uniformity* of Bodys is equal, the Beauty is as the *Variety*; and where the *Variety* is equal, the Beauty is as the *Uniformity*. This will be plain from Examples.

FIRST, the *Variety* increâses the Beauty in equal *Uniformity*. The Beauty of an *equilateral Triangle* is less than that of the *Square*; which is less than that of a *Pentagon*; and this again is surpass'd by the *Hexagon*. When indeed the Number of Sides is much increas'd the Proportion of them to the *Radius*, or *Diameter* of the Figure, or of the *Circle* to which regular *Polygons* have

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\* See Sect. vi. Art. 11, 12, 13.

## 18      *An INQUIRY concerning*

Sect. 2. an obvious Relation, is so much lost to our  
 Observation, that the Beauty does not always increase with the Number of Sides ; and the want of Parallelism in the Sides of *Heptagons*, and other Figures of odd Numbers, may also diminish their Beauty. So in *Solids*, the *Eicohedron* surpasses the *Dodecaedron*, and this the *Oetaedron*, which is still more beautiful than the *Cube* ; and this again surpasses the regular *Pyramid* : The obvious Ground of this, is greater *Variety* with equal *Uniformity*.

*Uniformity.*

THE greater *Uniformity* increases the *Beauty* amidst equal *Variety*, in these Instances : An Equilateral *Triangle*, or even an *Isosceles*, surpasses the *Scalenum* : A *Square* surpasses the *Rhombus* or *Lozenge*, and this again the *Rhomboides*, which is still more beautiful than the *Trapezium*, or or any Figure with irregular curve Sides. So the *regular Solids* surpass all other Solids of equal number of plain Surfaces : And the same is observable not only in the Five perfectly *regular Solids*, but in all those which have any considerable *Uniformity*, as *Cylinders*, *Prisms*, *Pyramids*, *Obelisks* ; which please every Eye more than any rude Figures, where there is no *Unity* or Resemblance among the Parts.

*Compound Ratio.*

INSTANCES of the compound *Ratio* we have in comparing *Circles* or *Spheres*, with


with *Ellipses* or *Spheroides* not very *eccen-Sect. 2.*  
 tric; and in comparing the *compound* So-  
 lids, the *Exoëtaedron*, and *Eicosidodecaedron*,  
 with the perfectly *regular* ones of which  
 they are compounded: and we shall find,  
 that the Want of that most perfect *Unifor-*  
*mity* observable in the latter, is compensated  
 by the greater *Variety* in the former, so  
 that the *Beauty* is nearly equal.

IV. THESE Observations would proba-  
 bly hold true for the most part, and might  
 be confirm'd by the Judgment of Children  
 in the *simpler* Figures, where the *Variety* is  
 not too great for their Comprehension.  
 And however uncertain some of the particu-  
 lar aforesaid Instances may seem, yet this is  
 perpetually to be observ'd, that Children  
 are fond of all *regular* Figures in their little  
 Diversions, altho they be no more conven-  
 nient, or useful for them, than the Figures  
 of our common Pebbles: We see how early  
 they discover a *Taste* or Sense of *Beauty*, in  
 desiring to see Buildings, regular Gardens,  
 or even Representations of them in Pictures  
 of any kind.

V. THE same Foundation we have for <sup>Beauty of Nature.</sup>  
 our Sense of *Beauty* in the Works of NA-  
 TURE. In every Part of the World which  
 we call *Beautiful*, there is a surprizing  
*Uniformity* amidst an almost infinite *Va-*  
*riety*. Many Parts of the Universe seem not

Sect. 2. at all design'd for the use of Man ; nay, it is but a very small Spot with which we have any acquaintance. The *Figures* and *Motions* of the great Bodys are not obvious to our Senses, but found out by Reasoning and Reflection, upon many long Observations: and yet as far as we can by *Sense* discover, or by *Reasoning* enlarge our Knowledge, and extend our Imagination, we generally find their Structure, Order, and Motion, agreeable to our Sense of *Beauty*. Every particular Object in *Nature* does not indeed appear *beautiful* to us ; but there is a great Profusion of *Beauty* over most of the Objects which occur either to our Senses, or Reasonings upon Observation : For not to mention the apparent Situation of the heavenly Bodys in the Circumference of a great Sphere, which is wholly occasion'd by the Imperfection of our Sight in discerning distances ; the Forms of all the great Bodys in the Universe are nearly *Spherical* ; the *Orbits* of their Revolutions generally *Elliptick*, and without great Eccentricity, in those which continually occur to our Observation: now these are Figures of great *Uniformity*, and therefore pleasing to us.

FURTHER, to pass by the less obvious *Uniformity* in the Proportion of their *Quantities* of Matter, *Distances*, *Times* of revolving, to each other ; what can exhibit a greater Instance of *Uniformity amidst Variety*,

riety, than the constant Tenour of Revolu- Sect. 2.  
tions in nearly equal Times, in each *Planet*,   
around its Axis, and the central Fire or  
SUN, thro' all the Ages of which we have  
any Records, and in nearly the same Or-  
bit? Thus after certain Periods, all the  
same Appearances are again renew'd; the  
alternate Successions of *Light* and *Shade*, or  
*Day* and *Night*, constantly pursuing each  
other around each *Planet*, with an agree-  
able and regular Diversity in the Times they  
possess the several Hemispheres, in the *Sum-  
mer*, *Harvest*, *Winter*, and *Spring*; and the  
various *Phases*, *Aspects*, and *Situations*, of  
the *Planets* to each other, their *Conjunctions*  
and *Oppositions*, in which they suddenly dar-  
ken each other with their Conick Shades in  
Eclipses, are repeated to us at their fixed  
Periods with invariable Constancy: These  
are the *Beautys* which charm the *Astrono-  
mer*, and make his tedious Calculations plea-  
sant.

*Molliter austerum studio fallente laborem* \*.

VI. AGAIN, as to the dry Part of the *Earth*.  
Surface of our Globe, a great Part of which  
is cover'd with a very pleasant inoffensive  
Colour, how *beautifully* is it diversify'd with  
various Degrees of *Light* and *Shade*, ac-

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\* Hor. Lib. 2. Sat. 2. v. 12.






## *An INQUIRY concerning*

cording to the different Situations of the  
Parts of its Surface, in *Mountains, Valleys,*  
*Hills,* and open *Plains,* which are variously  
inclin'd toward the great LUMINARY!

VII. IF we descend to the minuter Works  
of NATURE, what great *Uniformity* among  
all the Species of *Plants* and *Vegetables* in  
the manner of their Growth and Propaga-  
tion! how near the Resemblance among all  
the Plants of the same Species, whose Num-  
bers surpass our Imagination! And this *U-*  
*niformity* is not only observable in the Form  
in gross; (nay, in this it is not so very exact  
in all Instances) but in the Structure of their  
minute Parts, which no Eye unassisted  
with Glasses can discern. In the almost in-  
finite Multitude of *Leaves, Fruit, Seed,*  
*Flowers* of any one Species, we often see  
a very great *Uniformity* in the Structure and  
Situation of the smallest Fibres. This is the  
*Beauty* which charms an ingenious *Botanist*.  
Nay, what great *Uniformity* and Regu-  
larity of Figure is found in each parti-  
cular *Plant, Leaf, or Flower!* In all Trees  
and most of the smaller Plants, the Stalks  
or Trunks are either *Cylinders* nearly, or reg-  
ular *Prisms*; the Branches similar to their  
several Trunks, arising at nearly regular  
Distances, when no Accidents retard their  
natural Growth: In one *Species* the Branches  
arise in Pairs on the opposite Sides; the per-  
pendicular

pendicular Plain of Direction of the imme- Sect. 2.  
diately superior Pair, intersecting the Plain   
of Direction of the inferior, nearly at right  
Angles: In another *Species*, the Branches  
spring singly, and alternately, all around in  
nearly equal Distances: And the Branches  
in other *Species* sprout all in Knots around  
the Trunk, one for each Year. And in each  
*Species*, all the Branches in the first Shoots  
preserve the same Angles with their Trunk;  
and they again sprout out into smaller  
Branches exactly after the Manner of their  
Trunks. Nor ought we to pass over that  
great *Unity* of Colours which we often see  
in all the Flowers of the same Plant or Tree,  
and often of a whole *Species*; and their ex-  
act Agreement in many shaded Transitions  
into opposite Colours, in which all the  
Flowers of the same Plant generally agree,  
nay often all the Flowers of a *Species*.

VIII. AGAIN, as to the *Beauty* of *Animals*,  
*Animals*, either in their inward Structure, which  
we come to the Knowledg of by Experi-  
ment and long Observation, or their out-  
ward Form, we shall find surprizing *Uni-*  
*formity* among all the *Species* which are  
known to us, in the Structure of those  
Parts, upon which Life depends more im-  
mediately. And how amazing is the *Unity*  
of Mechanism, when we shall find an al-  
most infinite diversity of Motions, all their  
Actions in *walking, running, flying, swim-*  
C 4 *ming*;

Sect. 2. *ming*; all their serious Efforts for *Self-preservation*, all their freakish *Contortions* when they are gay and sportful, in all their various Limbs, perform'd by one simple Contrivance of a contracting *Muscle*, apply'd with inconceivable Diversities to answer all these Ends! Various Engines might have obtain'd the same Ends; but then there had been less *Uniformity*, and the *Beauty* of our Animal Systems, and of particular Animals, had been much less, when this surprising *Unity* of Mechanism had been remov'd from them.

IX. AMONG Animals of the same Species, the *Unity* is very obvious, and this Resemblance is the very Ground of our ranking them in such *Classes* or *Species*, notwithstanding the great Diversities in Bulk, Colour, Shape, which are observ'd even in those call'd of the same Species. And then in each Individual, how universal is that *Beauty* which arises from the exact Resemblance of all the external double Members to each other, which seems the universal Intention of NATURE, when no Accident prevents it! We see the Want of this Resemblance never fails to pass for an Imperfection, and Want of *Beauty*, tho no other Inconvenience ensues; as when the Eyes are not exactly like, or one Arm or Leg is a little shorter or smaller than its fellow.

As to that most powerful Beauty in *Countenances, Airs, Gestures, Motion*, we shall shew in the second Treatise \*, that it arises from some imagin'd *Indication* of morally good Dispositions of Mind. In motion there is also a natural Beauty, when at fixed periods like Gestures and Steps are regularly repeated, suiting the time and air of Music, which is observed in regular Dancing.

X. THERE is a farther *Beauty* in *Animals*, arising from a certain *Proportion* of the various Parts to each other, which still pleases the Sense of Spectators, tho they cannot calculate it with the Accuracy of a *Statuary*. The *Statuary* knows what Proportion of each Part of the *Face* to the whole *Face* is most agreeable; and can tell us the same of the Proportion of the *Face* to the *Body*, or any Parts of it; and between the *Diameters* and *Lengths* of each Limb: When this Proportion of the Head to the Body is remarkably alter'd, we shall have a *Giant* or a *Dwarf*. And hence it is, that either the one or the other may be represented to us even in *Miniature*, without relation to any external Object, by observing how the Body surpasses the Proportion it should have to the Head in *Giants*, and falls below it in *Dwarfs*. There is a farther

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\* Sect. vi. Art. 3.

Sect. 2. *Beauty* arising from that Figure, which is a natural Indication of *Strength*; but this may be pass'd over, because probably it may be alledg'd, that our Approbation of this Shape flows from an opinion of *Advantage*, and not from the Form it self.

THE *Beauty* arising from Mechanism, apparently adapted to the Necessities and Advantages of any Animal; which pleases us, even tho there be no Advantage to our selves ensuing from it; will be consider'd under the Head of *Relative Beauty*, or *Design* \*.

*Fowls.*

XI. THE peculiar *Beauty* of *Fowls* can scarce be omitted, which arises from the great *Variety* of Feathers, a curious Sort of Machines adapted to many admirable Uses, which retain a considerable Resemblance in their Structure among all the Species; and a perfect *Uniformity* in those of the same Species in the corresponding Parts, and in the two Sides of each individual; besides all the *Beauty* of lively Colours and gradual Shades, not only in the external Appearance of the Fowl, resulting from an artful Combination of shaded Feathers, but often visible even in one Feather separately.

*Fluids.*


XII. IF our Reasonings about the Nature of *Fluids* be just, the vast Stores of *Wa-*

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\* See Sect. iv. Art. 7.

ter will give us an Instance of *Uniformity* in Sect. 2. *Nature* above Imagination, when we reflect upon the almost infinite Multitude of small, polish'd, smooth Spheres, which must be suppos'd form'd in all the parts of this Globe. The same *Uniformity* there is probably among the Parts of other *Fluids* as well as Water; and the like must be observ'd in several other natural Bodys, as *Salts*, *Sulphurs*, and such like; whose uniform Propertys do probably depend upon an *Uniformity* in the Figures of their Parts.

XIII. UNDER *Original Beauty* we may *Harmony*. include *Harmony*, or *Beauty of Sound*, if that Expression can be allow'd, because *Harmony* is not usually conceiv'd as an Imitation of any thing else. *Harmony* often raises Pleasure in those who know not what is the Occasion of it: And yet the Foundation of this Pleasure is known to be a sort of *Uniformity*. When the several Vibrations of one Note regularly coincide with the Vibrations of another, they make an agreeable Composition; and such Notes are call'd *Concords*. Thus the Vibrations of any one Note coincide in *Time* with two Vibrations of its *Octave*; and two Vibrations of any Note coincide with three of its *Fifth*; and so on in the rest of the *Concords*. Now no *Composition* can be harmonious, in which the Notes are not, for the most

 Sect. 2. most part, dispos'd according to these natural Proportions. Besides which, a due Regard must be had to the *Key*, which governs the whole, and to the *Time* and *Humour*, in which the Composition is begun: a frequent and inartificial *Change* of any of which will produce the greatest, and most unnatural *Discord*. This will appear, by observing the *Dissonance* which would arise from tacking Parts of different Tunes together as one, altho both were separately agreeable. A like *Uniformity* is also observable among the *Bases*, *Tenors*, *Trebles* of the same Tune.

THERE is indeed observable, in the best Compositions, a mysterious Effect of *Discords*: They often give as great Pleasure as continu'd Harmony; whether by refreshing the Ear with *Variety*, or by awakening the Attention, and enlivening the Relish for the succeeding Harmony of Concords, as Shades enliven and beautify Pictures, or by some other means not yet known: Certain it is however that they have their place, and some good Effect in our best Compositions. Some other Powers of *Musick* may be consider'd hereafter \*.

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\* See Sect. vi. Art. 12.

XIV. BUT in all these Instances of *Beauty* let it be observ'd, That the Pleasure is communicated to those who never reflected on this general Foundation ; and that all here alledg'd is this, " That the pleasant Sensation arises only from Objects, in which there is *Uniformity amidst Variety* : " We may have the Sensation without knowing what is the Occasion of it ; as a Man's *Taste* may suggest Ideas of Sweets, Acids, Bitters, tho he be ignorant of the *Forms* of the small Bodys, or their *Motions*, which excite these Perceptions in him.





## S E C T. III.

*Of the Beauty of Theorems.*

*Theorems.* I. **T**HE Beauty of *Theorems*, or universal Truths demonstrated, deserves a distinct Consideration, being of a Nature pretty different from the former kinds of *Beauty*; and yet there is none in which we shall see such an amazing *Variety* with *Uniformity*: and hence arises a very great Pleasure distinct from Prospects of any farther Advantage.

II. F O R in one *Theorem* we may find included, with the most exact Agreement, an infinite Multitude of particular Truths; nay, often an Infinity of Infinites: so that altho the Necessity of forming abstract Ideas and universal *Theorems*, arises perhaps from the Limitation of our Minds, which cannot admit an infinite Multitude of singular Ideas or Judgments at once, yet this Power gives us an Evidence of the Largeness of the human Capacity above our Imagination. Thus for instance, the 47<sup>th</sup> Proposition of the first Book of EUCLID'S *Elements* contains an infinite Multitude of Truths, concerning the infinite possible *Sizes* of right-angled *Triangles*, as you make the Angle greater

or less; and in each of these *Sizes* you may find an infinite Multitude of dissimilar *Triangles*, as you vary the Proportion of the *Base* to the *Perpendicular*; all which Infinities of Infinites agree in the general *Theorem*. In *Algebraick*, and *Fluxional Calculations*, we shall still find a greater *Variety* of particular *Truths* included in general *Theorems*; not only in general *Equations* applicable to all Kinds of *Quantity*, but in more particular Investigations of *Areas* and *Tangents*: In which one Manner of Operation shall discover *Theorems* applicable to infinite *Orders* or *Species* of *Curves*, to the infinite *Sizes* of each Species, and to the infinite *Points* of the infinite *Individuals* of each Size.

III. THAT we may the better discern this Agreement, or *Unity* of an Infinity of Objects, in the general *Theorem*, to be the Foundation of the *Beauty* or *Pleasure* attending their Discovery, let us compare our Satisfaction in such Discoverys, with the uneasy state of Mind in which we are, when we can only measure Lines, or Surfaces, by a Scale, or are making Experiments which we can reduce to no general *Canon*, but only heaping up a Multitude of particular incoherent Observations. Now each of these Trials discovers a new Truth, but with no Pleasure or *Beauty*, notwithstanding

*Foundati-  
on of their  
Beauty.*

Sect. 3. ing the *Variety*, till we can discover some  
 ~~~~~ fort of *Unity*, or reduce them to some general Canon.

*Little
Beauty in
Axioms.*

IV. AGAIN, let us take a Metaphysical Axiom, such as this, *Every Whole is greater than its Part*; and we shall find no *Beauty* in the Contemplation. For tho this Proposition contains many Infinities of particular Truths; yet the *Unity* is inconsiderable; since they all agree only in a vague, undetermin'd Conception of *Whole* and *Part*; and in an indefinite Excess of the former above the latter, which is sometimes great and sometimes small. So, should we hear that the *Cylinder* is greater than the inscrib'd *Sphere*, and this again greater than the *Cone* of the same Altitude, and Diameter of the Base, we shall find no pleasure in this Knowledge of a general Relation of greater and less, without any precise Difference or Proportion. But when we see the universal exact Agreement of all possible Sizes of such Systems of Solids, that they preserve to each other the constant *Ratio* of 3, 2, 1; how beautiful is the *Theorem*, and how are we ravish'd with its first Discovery!

Easy Theorems.

WE may likewise observe, that *easy* or *obvious* Propositions, even where the *Unity* is sufficiently distinct, and determinate, do not please us so much as those, which
 being

being less *obvious*, give us some *Surprize* in Sect. 3. the Discovery: Thus we find little Pleasure in discovering that a *Line bisecting the vertical Angle of an Isosceles Triangle, bisects the Base*, or the *Reverse*; or, that *Equilateral Triangles are Equiangular*. These Truths we almost know *Intuitively*, without Demonstration: They are like common Goods, or those which Men have long possessed, which do not give such sensible Joys as much smaller new *Additions* may give us. But let none hence imagine, that the sole Pleasure of Theorems is from *Surprize*; for the same *Novelty* of a single Experiment does not please us much: nor ought we to conclude from the greater Pleasure accompanying a *new*, or *unexpected* Advantage, that *Surprize*, or *Novelty* is the only Pleasure of Life, or the only ground of Delight in *Truth*. Another kind of *Surprize* in certain Theorems increases our pleasure above that we have in Theorems of greater Extent; when we discover a *general Truth*, which upon some confused Notion we had reputed false: as that *Assymptotes always approaching should never meet the Curve*. This is like the Joy of unexpected Advantage where we dreaded Evil. But still the *Unity* of many Particulars in the general Theorem is necessary to give Pleasure in any Theorem.

D

V. THERE

Sect. 3.

Corollarys.

V. THERE is another *Beauty* in Propositions, when one *Theorem* contains a great Multitude of Corollarys easily deducible from it. Thus that *Theorem* which gives us the Equation of a *Curve*, whence perhaps most of its Propertys may be deduc'd, does some way please and satisfy our Mind above any other Proposition: Such a *Theorem* also is the 35th of the 1st *Book* of EUCLID, from which the whole Art of measuring right-lin'd Areas is deduc'd, by Resolution into *Triangles*, which are the halves of so many *Parallelograms*; and these are each respectively equal to so many *Rectangles* of the *Base* into the perpendicular *Altitude*: The 47th of the 1st *Book* is another of like *Beauty*, and so are many others.

IN the search of *Nature* there is the like *Beauty* in the Knowledge of some great *Principles*, or universal *Forces*, from which innumerable Effects do flow. Such is *Gravitation*, in Sir ISAAC NEWTON'S Scheme; such also is the Knowledge of the Original of *Rights*, *perfect* and *imperfect*, and *external*; *alienable* and *unalienable*, with their manner of *Translation*; from whence the greatest Part of moral Dutys may be deduc'd in the various Relations of human Life.

IT

IT is easy to see how Men are charm'd with the *Beauty* of such Knowledge, besides its Usefulness; and how this sets them upon deducing the Propertys of each Figure from one *Genesis*, and demonstrating the mechanick Forces from one *Theorem* of the Composition of Motion; even after they have sufficient Knowledge and Certainty in all these Truths from distinct independent Demonstrations. And this Pleasure we enjoy even when we have no Prospect of obtaining any other *Advantage* from such Manner of Deduction, than the immediate Pleasure of contemplating the *Beauty*: nor could Love of *Fame* excite us to such regular Methods of Deduction, were we not conscious that Mankind are pleas'd with them immediately, by this *internal Sense* of their *Beauty*.

IT is no less easy to see into what absurd Attempts Men have been led by this Sense of *Beauty*, and an Affectation of obtaining it in the other Sciences as well as the *Mathematicks*. 'Twas this probably which set DESCARTES on that hopeful Project of deducing all human Knowledge from one Proposition, viz. *Cogito, ergo sum*; while others with as little Sense contended, that *Impossibile est idem simul esse & non esse*, had much fairer Pretensions to the Style and Title of *Principium humanæ Cognitionis ab-*

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Sect. 3. *solutè primum.* Mr. LEIBNITZ had an equal Affection for his favourite Principle of a *sufficient Reason* for every thing in *Nature*, and brags to Dr. CLARKE of the Wonders he had wrought in the intellectual World by its Assistance; but his learned Antagonist seems to think he had not sufficient Reason for his Boasting*. If we look into particular Sciences, we may see in the Systems learned Men have given us of them, the Inconveniences of this Love of *Uniformity*. How awkwardly is PUFENDORF forc'd to deduce the several Dutys of Men to *God, themselves, and their Neighbours*, from his single fundamental Principle of *Sociableness to the whole Race of Mankind*? This Observation might easily be extended farther, were it necessary; and is a strong Proof that Men perceive the *Beauty of Uniformity* in the Sciences, even from the Contortions of common Sense they are led into by pursuing it.


VI. THIS Delight which accompanys Sciences, or universal *Theorems*, may really be call'd a kind of *Sensation*; since it necessarily accompanys the Discovery of any Proposition, and is distinct from bare Knowledge it self, being most violent at first, whereas the Knowledge is uniformly the

* See the Letters which pass'd between Dr. CLARKE and Mr. LEIBNITZ, Pag. 23.

fame.

same. And however Knowledge enlarges Sect. 3.
the *Mind*, and makes us more capable of
comprehensive Views and Projects in some
kinds of Business, whence *Advantage* may
also arise to us ; yet we may leave it in the
Breast of every Student to determine, whe-
ther he has not often felt this Pleasure with-
out any such prospect of Advantage from
the Discovery of his *Theorem*. All which
can thence be infer'd is only this, that as
in our external Senses, so in our *internal*
ones, the pleasant Sensations generally a-
rise from those Objects which calm Reason
would have recommended, had we under-
stood their Use, and which might have en-
gag'd our pursuits from *Self-interest*.

VII. As to the Works of ART, were we *Works of*
to run thro' the various artificial Contrivances or Structures, we should constantly find the Foundation of the *Beauty* which appears in them, to be some kind of *Uniformity*, or *Unity* of Proportion among the Parts, and of each Part to the Whole. As there is a great Diversity of Proportions possible, and different Kinds of *Uniformity*, so there is room enough for that Diversity of Fancys observable in *Architecture*, *Gardening*, and such like Arts in different *Nations* ; they all may have *Uniformity*, tho the Parts in one may differ from those in another. The *Chinese* or *Persian* Buildings are not like the *Grecian* and *Roman*, and yet the former has

Sect. 3.  its *Uniformity* of the various Parts to each other, and to the Whole, as well as the latter. In that kind of Architecture which the EUROPEANS call *Regular*, the *Uniformity* of Parts is very obvious, the several Parts are *regular Figures*, and either *equal* or *similar* at least in the same Range; the Pedestals are *Parallelopipedons* or square *Prisms*; the Pillars, *Cylinders* nearly; the Arches *Circular*, and all those in the same Row *equal*; there is the same Proportion every where observ'd in the same Range between the *Diameters* of Pillars and their *Heights*, their *Capitals*, the *Diameters* of *Arches*, the *Heights* of the *Pedestals*, the *Projections* of the *Cornice*, and all the Ornaments in each of our *five Orders*. And tho' other Countrys do not follow the *Grecian* or *Roman* Proportions; yet there is even among them a Proportion retain'd, a *Uniformity*, and Resemblance of corresponding Figures; and every Deviation in one part from that Proportion which is observ'd in the rest of the Building, is displeasing to every Eye, and destroys or diminishes at least the *Beauty* of the Whole.

VIII. THE same might be observ'd thro' all other Works of *Art*, even to the meanest *Utenfil*; the *Beauty* of every one of which we shall always find to have the same Foundation of *Uniformity amidst Variety*, without which they appear mean, irregular and deform'd.

S E C T.



S E C T. IV.

Of Relative or Comparative Beauty.

I. IF the preceding Thoughts concerning *Comparative Beauty* the Foundation of *absolute Beauty* be just, we may easily understand wherein *relative Beauty* consists. All *Beauty* is relative to the Sense of some Mind perceiving it ; but what we call *relative* is that which is apprehended in any *Object*, commonly consider'd as an *Imitation* of some Original : And this *Beauty* is founded on a *Conformity*, or a kind of *Unity* between the Original and the Copy. The Original may be either some Object in *Nature*, or some *establish'd Idea* ; for if there be any known *Idea* as a Standard, and Rules to fix this Image or *Idea* by, we may make a *beautiful Imitation*. Thus a *Statuary*, *Painter*, or *Poet*, may please us with an *HERCULES*, if his Piece retains that *Grandeur*, and those marks of *Strength*, and *Courage*, which we imagine in that Hero.

AND farther, to obtain *comparative Beauty* alone, it is not necessary that there be any Beauty in the Original ; the Imitation of *absolute Beauty* may indeed in the whole make a more lovely Piece, and yet

Sect. 4. an exact Imitation shall still be *beautiful*, tho the Original were intirely void of it: Thus the *Deformitys* of old Age in a Picture, the *rudest Rocks* or *Mountains* in a *Landskip*, if well represented, shall have abundant *Beauty*, tho perhaps not so great as if the Original were *absolutely beautiful*, and as well represented: Nay, perhaps the *Novelty* may make us prefer the representation of Irregularity.

*Description
in Poetry.*

II. THE same Observation holds true in the Descriptions of the Poets either of *natural* Objects or Persons; and this *relative Beauty* is what they should principally endeavour to obtain, as the peculiar *Beauty* of their Works. By the *Moralæ Fabulæ*, or the *Æn* of ARISTOTLE, we are not to understand *virtuous Manners* in a moral Sense, but a *just Representation* of Manners or Characters as they are in *Nature*; and that the *Actions* and *Sentiments* be suited to the Characters of the *Persons* to whom they are ascrib'd in *Epick* and *Dramatick* Poetry. Perhaps very good Reasons may be suggested from the Nature of our *Passions*, to prove that a Poet should not draw his *Characters* perfectly *Virtuous*; these Characters indeed abstractly consider'd might give more Pleasure, and have more *Beauty* than the *imperfect* ones which occur in Life with a mixture of Good and Evil: But it may suffice at present to suggest against this Choice, that

that we have more lively Ideas of *imperfect* Sect. 4. Men with all their Passions, than of *morally perfect Heroes*, such as really never occur to our Observation; and of which consequently we cannot judge exactly as to their Agreement with the Copy. And farther, thro' Consciousness of our own State, we are more nearly touch'd and affected by the *imperfect Characters*; since in them we see represented, in the Persons of others, the *Contrasts* of Inclinations, and the *Struggles* between the Passions of *Self-Love* and those of *Honour* and *Virtue*, which we often feel in our own Breasts. This is the Perfection of *Beauty* for which HOMER is justly admir'd, as well as for the *Variety* of his *Characters*.

III. MANY other Beautys of Poetry may *Probabili-* be reduc'd under this Class of *relative Beau-*ty, *Simily,* *Metaphor.* *ty*: The *Probability* is absolutely necessary to make us imagine *Resemblance*; it is by Resemblance that the *Similitudes*, *Metaphors* and *Allegorys* are made *beautiful*, whether either the Subject or the Thing compar'd to it have *Beauty* or not; the Beauty indeed is greater, when both have some *original Beauty* or *Dignity* as well as *Resemblance*: and this is the foundation of the Rule of studying *Decency* in *Metaphors* and *Similis* as well as *Likeness*. The *Measures* and *Cadence* are instances of *Harmony*, and come under the head of *absolute Beauty*.

Sect. 4.

*Proneness
to compare.*

IV. WE may here observe a strange Proneness in our Minds to make *perpetual Comparisons* of all things which occur to our Observation, even of those which are very different from each other. There are certain *Resemblances* in the Motions of all Animals upon like Passions, which easily found a *Comparison*; but this does not serve to entertain our Fancy: *Inanimate Objects* have often such Positions as resemble those of the *human Body* in various Circumstances; these *Airs* or *Gestures* of the *Body* are Indications of certain Dispositions in the *Mind*, so that our very *Passions* and *Affections* as well as other Circumstances obtain a Resemblance to *natural inanimate Objects*. Thus a *Tempest* at Sea is often an Emblem of *Wrath*; a *Plant* or *Tree* drooping under the Rain, of a Person in *Sorrow*; a *Poppy* bending its Stalk, or a *Flower* withering when cut by the Plow, resembles the Death of a *blooming Hero*; an *aged Oak* in the Mountains shall represent an *old Empire*, a *Flame* seizing a Wood shall represent a *War*. In short, every thing in *Nature*, by our strange inclination to *Resemblance*, shall be brought to represent other things, even the most remote, especially the Passions and Circumstances of human Nature in which we are more nearly concern'd; and to confirm this, and furnish Instances of it, one need only look into HOMER or VIRGIL. A fruit-
ful

ful Fancy would find in a *Grove*, or a *Wood*, Sect. 4. an Emblem for every *Character in a Commonwealth*, and every turn of *Temper*, or *Station in Life*.

V. CONCERNING that kind of *comparative Beauty* which has a necessary relation to some establish'd Idea, we may observe, that some Works of *Art* acquire a *distinct Beauty* by their Correspondence to some universally suppos'd *Intention* in the Artificers, or the Persons who employ'd him : And to obtain this *Beauty*, sometimes they do not form their Works so as to attain the highest Perfection of *original Beauty* separately consider'd ; because a Composition of this *relative Beauty*, along with some degree of the *original Kind*, may give more Pleasure, than a more *perfect original Beauty* separately. Thus we see, that strict *Regularity* in laying out of Gardens in *Parterres*, *Visitas*, *parallel Walks*, is often neglected, to obtain an Imitation of *Nature* even in some of its *Wildnesses*. And we are more pleas'd with this *Imitation*, especially when the Scene is large and spacious, than with the more confin'd Exactness of *regular Works*. So likewise in the *Monuments* erected in honour of deceased *Heroes*, altho a *Cylinder*, or *Prism*, or *regular Solid*, may have more *original Beauty* than a very acute *Pyramid* or *Obelisk*, yet the latter pleases more, by answering better the suppos'd Intentions of *Stability*, and being

Sect. 4. ing *conspicuous*. For the same reason *Cubes*, or square *Prisms*, are generally chosen for the *Pedestals* of *Statues*, and not any of the more *beautiful Solids*, which do not seem so secure from rolling. This may be the reason too, why *Columns* or *Pillars* look best when made a little taper from the middle, or a third from the bottom, that they may not seem top-heavy and in danger of falling.

VI. THE like reason may influence Artists, in many other Instances, to depart from the Rules of *original Beauty*, as above laid down. And yet this is no Argument against our Sense of *Beauty* being founded, as was above explain'd, on *Uniformity amidst Variety*, but only an Evidence that our Sense of *Beauty* of the *Original Kind* may be vary'd and overbalanc'd by another kind of *Beauty*.

VII. THIS *Beauty* arising from Correspondence to *Intention*, would open to curious Observers a new Scene of *Beauty* in the Works of NATURE, by considering how the *Mechanism* of the various Parts known to us, seems adapted to the Perfection of that Part, and yet in Subordination to the Good of some *System* or *Whole*. We generally suppose the Good of the *greatest Whole*, or of *all Beings*, to have been the *Intention* of the AUTHOR of *Nature*; and cannot avoid being pleas'd when we see any part of
this

this *Design* executed in the *Systems* we are Sect. 4. acquainted with. The Observations already made on this Subject are in every one's hand, in the Treatises of our late Improvers of *mechanical Philosophy*. We shall only observe here, that every one has a certain Pleasure in seeing any Design well executed by curious *Mechanism*, even when his own Advantage is no way concern'd; and also in discovering the Design to which any complex *Machine* is adapted, when he has perhaps had a general Knowledge of the *Machine* before, without seeing its Correspondence or Aptness to execute any Design.

THE Arguments by which we prove *Reason* and *Design* in any *Cause* from the *Beauty* of the *Effects*, are so frequently us'd in some of the highest Subjects, that it may be necessary to inquire a little more particularly into them, to see how far they will hold, and with what degree of Evidence.



S E C T. V.

Concerning our Reasonings about Design and Wisdom in the Cause, from the Beauty or Regularity of Effects.

Sense, arbitrary in its Author.

I. **T**HERE seems to be no necessary Connection of our pleasing Ideas of *Beauty* with the *Uniformity* or *Regularity* of the Objects, from the *Nature* of things, antecedent to some *Constitution* of the AUTHOR of our Nature, which has made such Forms pleasant to us. Other *Minds* may be so fram'd as to receive no Pleasure from *Uniformity*; and we actually find that the same regular Forms seem not equally to please all the Animals known to us, as shall probably appear hereafter. Therefore let us make what is the most unfavourable Supposition to the present Argument, viz. That the Constitution of our Sense so as to approve *Uniformity*, is merely arbitrary in the AUTHOR of our Nature; and that there are an infinity of *Tastes* or *Relishes* of *Beauty* possible; so that it would be impossible to throw together fifty or a hundred Pebbles, which should not make an agreeable Habitation for some
Animal

Animal or other, and appear *beautiful* to it. Sect. 5. And then it is plain, that from the Perception of *Beauty* in any one Effect, we should have no reason to conclude *Design* in the Cause: for a Sense might be so constituted as to be pleas'd with such *Irregularity* as may be the effect of an *undirected Force* *. But then, as there are an Infinity of *Forms* possible into which any System may be reduc'd, an Infinity of *Places* in which Animals may be situated, and an Infinity of *Relishes* or *Senses* in these Animals is suppos'd possible; that in the immense Spaces any one Animal should by Chance be plac'd in a System agreeable to its Taste, must be improbable as *infinite* to *one* at least: And much more unreasonable is it to expect from Chance, that a multitude of Animals agree-

* By undirected Force, or undesigning Force, is to be understood, That Force with which an Agent may put Matter into Motion, without having any Design or Intention to produce any particular Form. The Conatus ad motum, without an actual Line of Direction, seems such a gross absurdity in the Cartesian Scheme, that it is below the Dignity of common Sense to vouchsafe to confute it. But Men have so many confus'd Notions of some Nature, or Chance impressing Motions without any Design or Intention of producing any particular Effect, that it may be useful to shew, that even this very absurd Postulatum, tho it were granted them, is insufficient to answer the appearances in the Regularity of the World: and this is what is attempted in the first fourteen Articles of this Section. These Arguments would really be useless, if all Men were persuaded of what to a Man of just Thoughts will appear pretty obvious, that there can be no Thought-less Agent; and that Chance and Nature are mere empty Names, as they are us'd on this Occasion, relative only to our Ignorance.

ing

Sect. 5. ing in their Sense of *Beauty* should obtain
 agreeable Places.

Undirected
 Force.

II. THERE is also the same Probability, that in any one System of Matter an *Undirected Force* will produce a *regular Form*, as any one given *irregular* one, of the same degree of Complication : But still the *irregular Forms* into which any System may be rang'd, surpass in multitude the *Regular*, as *Infinite* does *Unity* ; for what holds in one small System will hold in a *Thousand*, a *Million*, a *Universe*, with more Advantage, viz. that the *irregular Forms* possible infinitely surpass the *Regular*. For Instance, the *Area* of an *Inch Square* is capable of an Infinity of *regular Forms*, the *Equilateral Triangle*, the *Square*, the *Pentagon*, *Hexagon*, *Heptagon*, &c. but for each one regular Form, there are an Infinity of Irregular, as an Infinity of *Scalena* for the one equilateral Triangle, an Infinity of *Trapezia* for the one Square, of irregular *Pentagons* for the one Regular, and so on : and therefore supposing any one System agitated by *undesigning Force*, it is infinitely more probable that it will resolve itself into an *irregular Form*, than a *regular*. Thus, that a System of *six* Parts upon Agitation shall not obtain the Form of a regular *Hexagon*, is at least *infinite* to *Unity* ; and the more complex we make the System, the greater is the hazard, from a very obvious Reason.

WE see this confirm'd by our constant Experience, that *Regularity* never arises from any *undefign'd Force* of ours; and from this we conclude, that wherever there is any *Regularity* in the disposition of a System capable of many other Dispositions, there must have been *Design* in the *Cause*; and the Force of this Evidence increases, according to the Multiplicity of Parts employ'd.

BUT this Conclusion is too rash, unless some farther Proof be introduc'd; and what leads us into it is this. Men, who have a Sense of *Beauty* in *Regularity*, are led generally in all their Arrangements of Bodys to study some kind of *Regularity*; and seldom ever design *Irregularity*: hence we judge the same of other Beings too, *viz.* that they study *Regularity*; and presume upon *Intention* in the *Cause* wherever we see it, making *Irregularity* always a Presumption of Want of *Design*: whereas if other Agents have different Senses of *Beauty*, or if they have no Sense of it at all, *Irregularity* may as well be design'd as *Regularity*. And then let it be observ'd, that in this Case there is just the same reason to conclude *Design* in the *Cause* from any one irregular Effect, as from a regular one: for since there are an Infinity of other *Forms* possible as well as this irregular one produc'd; and since to such a

E

Being

Sect. 5. Being * void of a Sense of *Beauty*, all Forms are as to its own Relish indifferent, and all agitated Matter meeting must make some Form or other, and all Forms, upon Supposition that the Force is apply'd by an Agent void of a Sense of *Beauty*, would equally prove *Design*; it is plain that no one Form proves it more than another, or can prove it at all; except from a general metaphysical Consideration, that there is no proper Agent without *Design* and *Intention*, and that every *Effect* flows from the *Intention* of some *Cause*.

Similar
Forms by
Chance,
impossible.

III. THIS however follows from the above mention'd Considerations, that supposing a Mass of Matter surpassing a *cubick Inch*, as *infinite* of the *first* Power does *Unity*, and that this whole Mass were some way de-

* There is a great Difference between such a Being as is here mention'd, and a Being which has no Intention for any reason whatsoever to produce one Form more than another. This latter sort of Being, as to the present Argument, would be the same with Chance, but not the former. For tho a Being has no sense of Beauty, he may notwithstanding be capable of Design, and of Intention to produce regular Forms; and the observation of greater Regularity in any number of Effects, than could be expected from undirected Force, is a presumption of Design and Intention in the Cause, even where the Cause is suppos'd to have no sense of Beauty in such Forms, since perhaps he may have other Reasons moving him to chuse such Forms. Thus supposing the DEITY not immediately pleas'd with Regularity, Uniformity, or Similarity in Bodys, yet there may be Reasons moving him to produce such Objects, such as the pleasing his Creatures, having given them a sense of Beauty founded on these Qualitys. See the two last Paragraphs of the last Section.

termin'd

termin'd from its own Nature without any Sect. 5.
Design in a *Cause* (which perhaps is scarce possible) to resolve itself into parts whose solid Contents were each a *cubick* Inch, and into a *prismatick* Form whose *Base* should always be $\frac{1}{2}$ of a *square* Inch; suppose these Conditions determin'd, and all others left to *undirected Force*; all which we could expect from *undirected Force* in this Case would be one equilateral *Prism*, or two perhaps: because there are an Infinity of irregular *Prisms* possible of the same *Base*, and *solid Content*; and when we met with many such *Prisms*, we must probably conclude them produc'd by *Design*, since they are more than could have been expected by the Laws of *Hazard*.

IV. BUT if this *infinite* Mass was not determin'd to a *prismatick* Form, we could only expect from its *casual Concourse* one *Prism* of any Kind, since there is an Infinity of other Solids into which the Mass might be resolv'd; and if we found any great number of *Prisms*, we should have reason to presume *Design*: so that in a Mass of Matter as infinite of the *first* Power, we could not from any *Concourse* or *Agitation* expect with any good ground a Body of any given Dimensions or Size, and of any given Form; since of any Dimension there are infinite Forms possible, and of any Form there are an Infinity of Dimensions; and if we found

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Sect. 5. several Bodys of the same Dimension and Form, we should have so much Presumption for *Design*.

V. THERE is one trifling Objection which may perhaps arise from the *crystallizing* of certain Bodys, when the Fluid is evaporated in which they were swimming : for in this we frequently see *regular Forms* arising, tho there is nothing suppos'd in this Affair but an *undirected Force of Attraction*. But to remove this Objection, we need only consider, that we have good Reason to believe, that the smallest Particles of *crystalliz'd* Bodys have fix'd *regular Forms* given them in the Constitution of *Nature* ; and then it is easy to conceive how their *Attractions* may produce *regular Forms* : but unless we suppose some preceding *Regularity* in the Figures of *attracting* Bodys, they can never form any regular Body at all. And hence we see how improbable it is, that the whole Mass of *Matter*, not only in this Globe, but in all the fixed Stars known to us by our Eyes or Glasses, were they a thousand times larger than our Astronomers suppose, could in any *Concourse* have produc'd any Number of *similar Bodys Regular or Irregular*.

Combinations by Chance, impossible.

VI. AND let it be here observ'd, that there are many Compositions of Bodys which the smallest Degree of *Design* could easily effect, which yet we would in vain expect from all the

the Powers of *Chance* or *undesign'd Force*, Sect. 5.
 after an *Infinity* of Rencounters; even sup-
 posing a Diffolution of every Form except
 the *regular one*, that the Parts might be pre-
 par'd for a new Agitation. Thus, suppo-
 sing we could expect *one* equilateral *Prism* of
 any *given* Dimensions should be form'd from
undirected Force, in an *Infinity* of Matter
 some way determin'd to resolve itself into
 Bodys of a *given* solid Content, (which is all
 we could expect, since it is *infinite* to *one*
 after the *solid Content* is obtain'd, that the
 Body shall not be *Prismatical*; and allow-
 ing it *Prismatical*, it is *infinite* to *one* that it
 shall not be *Equilateral*;) And again, sup-
 posing another *Infinity* of Matter determin'd
 to resolve itself into *Tubes*, of *Orifices* exact-
 ly equal to the *Bases* of the former *Prisms*,
 it is again at least as the *second* Power of *In-*
finite to *Unity*, that not one of these *Tubes*
 shall be both *Prismatick* and *Equiangular*;
 and then if the *Tube* were thus form'd, so as
 to be exactly capable of receiving one of the
Prisms and no more, it is *infinite* to *one* that
 they shall never meet in *infinite Space*; and
 should they meet, it is *infinite* to *one* that
 the *Axes* of the *Prism* and *Tube* shall never
 happen in the same strait *Line*; and sup-
 posing they did, it is again as *infinite* to
three, that *Angle* shall not meet *Angle*, so as
 to enter. We see then how infinitely im-
 probable it is, " That all the Powers of
 " *Chance in infinite Matter*, agitated thro'

Sect. 5. “ *infinite Ages*, could ever effect this small
 “ Composition of a *Prism* entering a *Pris-*
 “ *matick Bore* ; and, that all our hazard
 “ for it would at most be but as *three* is to
 “ the *third Power of Infinite*.” And yet
 the smallest *Design* could easily effect it.

VII. MAY we not then justly count it altogether absurd, and next to an absolute strict *Impossibility*, “ That all the Powers of
 “ *undirected Force* should ever effect such a
 “ complex Machine as the most imperfect
 “ *Plant*, or the meanest *Animal*, even in
 “ one Instance ?” For the *Improbability* just increases, as the Complication of Mechanism in these *natural* Bodys surpasses that *simple* Combination above mention’d.

VIII. LET it be here observ’d, “ That
 “ the preceding Reasoning from the *Frequency* of *regular Bodys* of one Form in
 “ the *Universe*, and from the *Combinations*
 “ of various Bodys, is intirely independent
 “ on any Perception of *Beauty* ; and would
 “ equally prove *Design* in the *Cause*, altho
 “ there were no *Being* which perceiv’d
 “ *Beauty* in any Form whatsoever :” for it is in short this, “ *That the recurring of*
 “ *any Effect oftner than the Laws of Hazard*
 “ *determine, gives Presumption of Design ;*
 “ *and, That Combinations which no unde-*
 “ *sign’d Force could give us reason to expect,*
 “ *must necessarily prove the same ; and that*
 “ *with*

“ with superior probability, as the multitude Sect. 5.
 “ of Cases in which the contrary might hap-
 “ pen, surpass all the Cases in which this
 “ could happen :” which appears to be in
 the simplest Cases at least as *Infinite* does
Unity. And the frequency of *similar irre-*
regular Forms, or *exact Combinations* of them,
 is an equal Argument of *Design* in the Cause,
 since the *Similarity*, or *exact Combinations* of
irregular Forms, are as little to be expected
 from all the Powers of *undirected Force*, as
 any fort whatsoever.


IX. To bring this nearer to something
 like a *Theorem*, altho the *Idea* of *Infinite* be
 troublesom enough to manage in Reasoning.
 The Powers of *Chance*, with *infinite Mat-*
ter in *infinite Ages*, may answer *Hazards* as
 the *fifth* Power of *Infinite* and no more :
 thus the *Quantity* of Matter may be con-
 ceiv'd as the *third* Power of *Infinite* and no
 more, the *various Degrees* of Force may
 make *another* Power of *Infinite*, and the
Number of Rencounters may make the *fifth*.
 But this last only holds on Supposition, that
 after every Rencounter there is no *Cohesion*,
 but all is dissolv'd again for a new Con-
 course, except in *similar Forms* or *exact Com-*
binations ; which Supposition is intirely
 groundless, since we see *dissimilar Bodys* co-
 hering as strongly as any, and *rude Masses*
 more than any Combinations. Now to pro-
 duce any *given Body*, in a *given Place* or

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Sect. 5. Situation, and of *given* Dimensions, or Shape, the Hazards of the contrary are, *one* Power of *Infinite* at least to obtain the *Place* or *Situation*; when the *Situation* is obtain'd, the *solid Content* requires *another* Power of *Infinite* to obtain it; the *Situation* and *Solidity* obtain'd require, for accomplishing the *simplest given* Shape, at least the other *three* Powers of *Infinite*. For instance, let the Shape be a four-sided *Prism* or *Parallelopiped*; that the *Surfaces* should be *Planes* requires *one* Power; that they should be *Parallel* in this Case, or *inclin'd* in any *given Angle* in any other Case, requires *another* Power of *Infinite*; and that they should be in any *given Ratio* to each other, requires at least the *third* Power: for in each of these Heads there is still an *Infinity* at least of other Cases possible beside the one *given*. So that all the Powers of *Chance* could only produce perhaps *one* Body of every simpler Shape or Size *at most*, and this is all we could expect: we might expect one *Pyramid*, or *Cube*, or *Prism* perhaps; but when we increase the Conditions requir'd, the Prospect must grow more improbable, as in more *complex Figures*, and in all *Combinations* of Bodys, and in *similar Species*, which we never could reasonably hope from *Chance*; and therefore where we see them, we must certainly ascribe them to *Design*.

X. THE Combinations of *regular Forms*, or of *irregular ones* exactly adapted to each other, require such *vast Powers of Infinite* to effect them, and the Hazards of the *contrary Forms* are so *infinitely* numerous, that all *Probability* or *Possibility* of their being accomplished by *Chance* seems quite to vanish. Let us apply the Cases in *Art. vi.* of this *Section* about the *Prism* and *Tube*, to our simplest Machines, such as a *pair of Wheels* of our ordinary Carriages; each *Circular*, *Spokes* equal in *length*, *thickness*, *shape*; the *Wheels* set *Parallel*, the *Axle-tree* fix'd in the *Nave* of both, and secur'd from coming out at either End: Now the Cases in which the contrary might have happen'd from *undirected Concourses*, were there no more requir'd than what is just now mention'd, must amount in Multitude to a Power of *Infinite equal* to every Circumstance requir'd. What shall we say then of a *Plant*, a *Tree*, an *Animal*, a *Man*, with *such multitudes* of adapted Vessels, *such Articulations*, *Insertions* of *Muscles*, *Diffusion* of *Veins*, *Arterys*, *Nerves*? The *Improbability* that such Machines should be the Effect of *Chance*, must be near the *infinitesimal Power* of *Infinite* to *Unity*.

XI. FURTHER, were all the former Reasoning from *Similarity* of Forms and Combinations groundless, and could *Chance* give

Sect. 5. give us ground to expect such Forms, with  exact Combination, yet we could only promise ourselves *one* of these Forms among an *Infinity* of others. When we see then such a *multitude* of Individuals of a Species, *similar* to each other in a great number of Parts; and when we see in each *Individual*, the corresponding Members so exactly like each other, what possible room is there left for questioning *Design* in the *Universe*? None but the barest *Possibility* against an inconceivably great *Probability*, surpassing every thing which is not *strict Demonstration*.

XII. THIS Argument, 'as has been already observ'd *, is quite abstracted from any Sense of *Beauty* in any particular Form; for the *exact Similarity* of a hundred or a thousand *Trapezia*, proves *Design* as well as the *Similarity* of *Squares*, since both are equally above all the Powers of *undirected Force* or *Chance*, as the *hundredth* or *thousandth* Power of *Infinite* surpasses *Unity*; and what is above the Powers of *Chance*, must give us proportionable Presumption for *Design*.

THUS, allowing that a *Leg*, or *Arm*, or *Eye*, might have been the Effect of *Chance*, (which was shewn to be *most absurd*, and next to absolutely *impossible*) that it should

not have a corresponding *Leg, Arm, Eye*, Sect. 5. exactly *similar*, must be a hazard of a Power of *Infinite* proportion'd to the Complication of Parts; for in Proportion to this is the multitude of Cases increas'd, in which it would not have a corresponding Member *similar*: so that allowing twenty or thirty Parts in such a Structure, it would be as the *twentieth* or *thirtieth* Power of *Infinite* to *Unity*, that the corresponding Part should not be *similar*. What shall we say then of the *similar Forms* of a whole *Species*?

XIII. IF it be objected, "That *natural* ^{Gross Similarity by chance, impossible.} Bodys are not *exactly similar*, but only *grossly so* to our Senses; as that a *Vein*, an *Artery*, a *Bone* is not perhaps exactly similar to its Correspondent in the same Animal, tho it appears so to our Senses, which judge only of the Bulk, and do not discern the small constituent Parts; and that in the several Individuals of a Species the *Dissemblance* is always sensible, often in the internal Structure, and always in the external Appearance." To remove this Objection it will be sufficient to shew, "That the multitude of Cases where- in *sensible Dissemblance* cou'd have happen'd, are still infinitely more than all the Cases in which *sensible Similarity* might be retained." so that the same Reasoning holds from *sensible Similarity*, as from the *mathematically exact*: And again, "That the

Sect. 5. " the Cases of *gross Dissimilarity* do in the
 " same manner surpass the Cases of *gross*
 " *Similarity* possible, as *infinite* does one."

XIV. To prove both these Assertions, let us consider a simple Instance. Suppose a *Trapezium* of a foot Square in *Area* should appear grossly *similar* to another, while no one *side* differs, by $\frac{1}{10}$ of an Inch; or no *Angle* in one surpasses the corresponding one in the other above ten Minutes: now this tenth of an Inch is *infinitely* divisible, as are also the ten Minutes, so that the Cases of *insensible Dissimilarity* under *apparent Similarity* are really *Infinite*. But then it is also plain that there are an *Infinity* of different sensibly dissimilar *Trapezia*, even of the same *Area*, according as we vary a *Side* by one Tenth, two Tenths, three Tenths, and so on, and vary the *Angles* and another *Side* so as to keep the *Area* equal. Now in each of these infinite Degrees of *sensible Dissimilitude* the several Tenths are *infinitely* divisible as well as in the first Case; so that the multitude of *sensible Dissimilarities* are to the multitude of *insensible Dissimilarities* under apparent Resemblance, still as the *second* Power of *Infinite* to the *first*, or as *Infinite* to *Unity*. And then how vastly greater must the Multitude be, of all possible *sensible Dissimilarities* in such complex Bødys as *Legs, Arms, Eyes, Arterys, Veins, Skeletons*?


XV. A

XV. As to the *Diffimilaritys* of Animals of the same Species, it is in the same manner plain, that the possible Cases of *gross Diffimilarity* are Infinite; and then every Case of *gross Diffimilarity* contains also all the Cases of *insensible Diffimilarity*. Thus, if we would count all Animals of a Species *grossly similar*, while there was no Limb which in Length or Diameter did exceed the ordinary Shape by above a third of the Head; it is plain that there are an Infinity of sensibly different *gross Diffimilaritys* possible, and then in each of these Cases of *gross Diffimilarity*, there are an Infinity of Cases of *nicer Diffimilarity*, since $\frac{1}{3}$ of the Head may be infinitely divided. To take a low but easy Instance; two *Cockle-Shells* which fitted each other naturally, may have an Infinity of *insensible Differences*, but still there are an Infinity of possible *sensible Differences*; and then in any one of the *sensibly different* Forms, there may be the same Infinity of *insensible Differences* beside the *sensible one*: So that still the hazard for even *gross Similarity* from *Chance* is *Infinite* to one, and this always increases by a Power of Infinite for every distinct Member of the Animal, in which even *gross Similarity* is retain'd; since the Addition of every Member or Part to a complex Machine, makes a new Infinity of Cases, in which *sensible Diffimilarity* may happen; and this Infinity combin'd

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with

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Sect. 5. with the infinite Cases of the former Parts,
 raises the Hazard by a Power of Infinite.

Now this may sufficiently shew us the Absurdity of the *Cartesian* or *Epicurean Hypothesis*, even granting their *Postulatum* of *undirected Force* impress'd on *infinite Matter* ; and seems almost a Demonstration of *Design* in the *Universe*.

XVI. ONE Objection more remains to be remov'd, *viz.* " That some imagine, this
 " Argument may hold better *à Priori* than
 " *à Posteriori* ; that is, we have better
 " Reason to believe, when we see a *Cause*
 " about to act, without Knowledge, that
 " he will not attain any given, or desir'd
 " *End* ; than we have on the other hand to
 " believe, when we see the *End* actually at-
 " tain'd, that he acted with Knowledge :
 " Thus, say they, when a particular Per-
 " son is about to draw a Ticket in a *Lot-*
 " *tery*, where there is but one *Prize* to a
 " thousand *Blanks*, it is highly probable that
 " he shall draw a *Blank* ; but suppose we
 " have seen him actually draw for himself
 " the *Prize*, we have no ground to con-
 " clude that he had *Knowledge* or *Art* to
 " accomplish this End." But the Answer
 is obvious : In such Contrivances we ge-
 nerally have, from the very Circumstances
 of the Lottery, very strong moral Argu-
 ments, which almost demonstrate that *Art*
 can

can have no place ; so that a Probability of Sect. 5. a *thousand* to *one*, may not surmount those Arguments: But let the Probability be increas'd, and it will soon surmount all Arguments to the contrary. For instance, If we saw a Man ten times successively draw Prizes, in a Lottery where there were but ten Prizes to ten thousand Blanks, I fancy few would question whether he us'd *Art* or not : much less would we imagine it were *Chance*, if we saw a Man draw for his own Gain successively a hundred, or a thousand Prizes, from among a proportionably greater number of Blanks. Now in the Works of *Nature* the Case is intirely different : we have not the least Argument against *Art* or *Design*. An *intelligent Cause* is surely at least as probable a Notion as *Chance*, *general Force*, *Conatus ad Motum*, or the *Clinamen Principiorum*, to account for any Effect whatsoever : And then all the *Regularity*, *Combinations*, *Similaritys* of Species, are so many Demonstrations, that there was *Design* and *Intelligence* in the CAUSE of this Universe : Whereas in fair Lotterys, all *Art* in drawing is made, if not actually impossible, at least highly improbable.

XVII. LET it be here observ'd also, *Irregularity does not*
 " That a *rational Agent* may be capable of *prove*
 " impressing Force without intending to *want of*
 " produce any particular Form, and of de- *Design*.
 " signedly producing *irregular* or *dissimilar*
 " Forms,

Sect. 5. "Forms, as well as *regular* and *similar* :"
 ~~~~~ And hence it follows, "That altho all the  
 " *Regularity*, *Combination* and *Similarity* in  
 " the *Universe*, are Presumptions of *Design*,  
 " yet *Irregularity* is no Presumption of the  
 " contrary ; unless we suppose that the  
 " *Agent* is determin'd from a Sense of *Beau-*  
 " *ty* always to act *regularly*, and delight in  
 " *Similarity* ; and that he can have no other  
 " inconsistent Motive of Action : " Which  
 last is plainly absurd. We do not want in  
 the *Universe* many Effects which seem to  
 have been left to the general *Laws* of *Mo-*  
*tion* upon some great *Impulse*, and have ma-  
 ny Instances where *Similarity* has been plainly  
 design'd in some respects, and probably neg-  
 lected in others ; or even *Dissimilarity* de-  
 sign'd. Thus we see the *general exact Re-*  
*semblance* between the two *Eyes* of most  
 Persons ; and yet perhaps no other third  
*Eye* in the World is *exactly* like them. We  
 see a *gross Conformity* of shape in all Per-  
 sons in innumerable Parts, and yet no two  
*Individuals* of any Species are undistinguish-  
 able ; which perhaps is intended for valu-  
 able Purposes to the whole Species.

*Wisdom,*  
*Prudence.*

XVIII. HITHERTO the Proof amounts  
 only to *Design* or *Intention* barely, in oppo-  
 sition to *blind Force* or *Chance* ; and we see  
 the Proof of this is independent on the *arbi-*  
*trary Constitution* of our *internal Sense* of  
*Beauty*. *Beauty* is often suppos'd an Argu-  
 ment

ment of more than *Design*, to wit, *Wisdom* Sect. 5. and *Prudence* in the *Cause*. Let us inquire also into this.

WISDOM denotes *the pursuing of the best Ends by the best Means*; and therefore before we can from any Effect prove the *Cause* to be *wise*, we must know what is *best* to the *Cause* or *Agent*. Among men who have pleasure in contemplating *Uniformity*, the *Beauty* of Effects is an Argument of *Wisdom*, because this is *Good* to them; but the same Argument would not hold as to a *Being void* of this *Sense* of *Beauty*. And therefore the *Beauty* apparent to us in *Nature*, will not of itself prove *Wisdom* in the *Cause*, unless this *Cause*, or AUTHOR of *Nature* be suppos'd BENEVOLENT; and then indeed the Happiness of Mankind is desirable or *Good* to the SUPREME CAUSE; and that Form which pleases us, is an Argument of his *Wisdom*. And the Strength of this Argument is increased always in proportion to the Degree of *Beauty* produc'd in *Nature*, and expos'd to the View of any *rational Agents*; since upon supposition of a *benevolent DEITY*, all the apparent *Beauty* produc'd is an Evidence of the Execution of a *Benevolent Design*, to give them the Pleasures of *Beauty*.

BUT what more immediately proves *Wisdom* is this; when we see any Machine with a great Complication of Parts actually ob-

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taining

Sect. 5. taining an *End*, we justly conclude, " That  
 " since this could not have been the Effect  
 " of *Chance*, it must have been *intended* for  
 " that *End*, which is obtain'd by it;" and  
 then the *Ends* or *Intentions*, being in part  
 known, the Complication of Organs, and  
 their nice Disposition adapted to this *End*,  
 is an Evidence " of a *comprehensive large*  
 " *Understanding* in the *Cause*, according to  
 " the Multiplicity of Parts, and the Appo-  
 " fiteness of their Structure, even when we  
 " do not know the *Intention* of the *Whole*."

General  
 Causes.

XIX. THERE is another kind of *Beauty*  
 from which we conclude Wisdom in the  
*Cause*, as well as Design, *when we see many*  
*useful or beautiful Effects flowing from one*  
*general Cause*. There is a very good Reason  
 for this Conclusion among Men. *Interest*  
 must lead *Beings* of limited Powers, who are  
 incapable of a great diversity of Operations,  
 and distracted by them, to choose this *frugal*  
*Oeconomy* of their Forces, and to look upon  
 such Management as an Evidence of *Wisdom*  
 in other *Beings* like themselves. Nor is this  
 speculative Reason all which influences  
 them, for even beside this Consideration of  
*Interest*, they are determin'd by a *Sense of*  
*Beauty* where that Reason does not hold ; as  
 when we are judging of the Productions of  
 other *Agents* about whose *Oeconomy* we are  
 not solicitous. Thus, who does not ap-  
 prove of it as a Perfection in *Clock-work*, that  
 three


three or four Motions of the *Hour*, *Minute*, Sect. 5. and *second Hands*, and *monthly Plate*, should arise from *one Spring* or *Weight*, rather than from three; or four *Springs*, or *Weights*, in a very Compound Machine, which should perform the same Effects, and answer all the same Purposes with equal exactness? Now the Foundation of this *Beauty* plainly appears to be *Uniformity*, or *Unity* of Cause amidst *Diversity* of Effects.

XX. WE shall \* hereafter offer some *General* Reasons, why the AUTHOR of *Nature* may *Laws.* choose to operate in this manner by *General Laws* and *Universal extensive Causes*, altho the Reason just now mention'd does not hold with an *Almighty Being*. This is certain, That we have some of the most delightful Instances of *Universal Causes* in the *Works* of *Nature*, and that the most studious men in these Subjects are so delighted with the Observation of them, that they always look upon them as Evidences of *Wisdom* in the Administration of *Nature*, from a SENSE OF BEAUTY:

XXI. THE wonderfully simple *Mechanism* which performs all Animal Motions, was mention'd ‡ already; nor is *that* of the inanimate Parts of *Nature*, less admirable. How innumerable are the Effects of that one

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\* See the last Section. ‡ See above, Sect. ii. Art. 8.

Sect. 5. Principle of *Heat*, deriv'd to us from the  
 *Sun*, which is not only delightful to our  
 Sight and Feeling, and the Means of dis-  
 cerning Objects, but is the Cause of *Rains*,  
*Springs*, *Rivers*, *Winds*, and the universal  
 Cause of *Vegetation* ! The *uniform Principle*  
 of *Gravity* preserves at once the *Planets* in  
 their *Orbits*, gives *Cohesion* to the Parts of  
 each *Globe*, and *Stability* to *Mountains*, *Hills*,  
 and *artificial Structures* ; it raises the *Sea*  
 in *Tides*, and sinks them again, and re-  
 strains them in their *Channels* ; it drains the  
*Earth* of its superfluous Moisture, by *Rivers* ;  
 it raises the *Vapours* by its Influence on the  
*Air*, and brings them down again in *Rains* ;  
 it gives an *uniform Pressure* to our *Atmosphere*,  
 necessary to our *Bodys* in general, and more  
 especially to *Inspiration* in *Breathing* ; and  
 furnishes us with an *universal Movement*,  
 capable of being apply'd in innumerable  
*Engines*. How incomparably more *beautiful*  
 is this *Structure*, than if we suppos'd so ma-  
 ny *distinct Volitions* in the DEITY, produc-  
 ing every particular Effect, and preventing  
 some of the accidental Evils which casually  
 flow from the *general Law* ! We may rashly  
 imagine that this latter manner of Opera-  
 tion might have been more useful to us ;  
 and it would have been no distraction to  
*Omnipotence* : But then the great *Beauty* had  
 been lost, and there had been no more Plea-  
 sure in the Contemplation of this Scene,  
 which is now so delightful. One would  
 rather

rather choofe to run the hazard of its *cafual* Sect. 5. *Evils*, than part with that *harmonious Form*, which has been an unexhausted Source of Delight to the fucceffive Spectators in all Ages.

XXII. HENCE we fee, “ That how- *Miracles*  
 “ ever *Miracles* may prove the Superin-  
 “ tendency of a *voluntary Agent*, and that  
 “ the *Univerſe* is not guided by *Neceffity* or  
 “ *Fate*, yet *that Mind* muſt be *weak* and *in-*  
 “ *advertent*, which needs them to confirm  
 “ the Belief of a *Wiſe* and *Good*. DEITY;  
 “ ſince the deviation from *general Laws*,  
 “ unleſs upon very extraordinary Occaſions,  
 “ muſt be a preſumption of *Inconſtancy*  
 “ and *Weakneſs*, rather than of *ſteddy Wiſ-*  
 “ *dom* and *Power*, and muſt weaken the  
 “ beſt Arguments we can have for the *Sa-*  
 “ *gacity* and *Power* of the *universal MIND*.”





## S E C T. VI.

*Of the Universality of the Sense of  
Beauty among Men.*

*Internal  
Sense not  
an imme-  
diate  
Source of  
Pain.*

I. **W**E before \* insinuated, “ That all “ *Beauty* has a relation to some “ *perceiving Power* ;” and consequently since we know not how great a *Variety* of *Senses* there may be among *Animals*, there is no *Form* in *Nature* concerning which we can pronounce, “ That it has no *Beauty* ;” for it may still please some *perceiving Power*. But our *Inquiry* is confin’d to *Men* ; and before we examine the *Universality* of this *Sense of Beauty*, or their agreement in approving *Uniformity*, it may be proper to consider, “ whether, as the other *Senses* “ which give us *Pleasure* do also give us “ *Pain*, so this *Sense of Beauty* does make “ some *Objects* disagreeable to us, and the “ occasion of *Pain*.”

THAT many *Objects* give no pleasure to our *Sense* is obvious ; many are certainly void of *Beauty* : But then there is no *Form* which seems necessarily disagreeable of it self, when we dread no other *Evil* from it,

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\* See above Sect. i. Art. 17. Sect. iv. Art. 1.

and compare it with nothing better of the Sect. 6. Kind. Many Objects are naturally displeasing, and distasteful to our *external Senses*, as well as others pleasing and agreeable; as *Smells, Tastes*, and some separate *Sounds*: but as to our *Sense of Beauty*, no Composition of Objects which give not unpleasant simple Ideas, seems positively unpleasant or painful of itself, had we never observ'd any thing better of the Kind. *Deformity* is only *the absence of Beauty*, or *deficiency in the Beauty expected in any Species*: Thus *bad Musick* pleases *Rusticks* who never heard any better, and the *finest Ear* is not offended with *tuning* of Instruments if it be not too tedious, where no *Harmony* is expected; and yet much smaller *Dissonancy* shall offend amidst the Performance, where *Harmony* is expected. A *rude Heap* of Stones is no way offensive to one who shall be pleas'd with *Irregularity* in *Architecture*, where *Beauty* was expected. And had there been a Species of that Form which we now call *ugly* or *deform'd*, and had we never seen or expected greater *Beauty*, we should have receiv'd no disgust from it, altho the Pleasure would not have been so great in this Form as in those we now admire. Our *Sense of Beauty* seems design'd to give us positive Pleasure, but not positive Pain or Disgust, any farther than what arises from disappointment.

Sect. 6.

~  
*Approba-  
 tion and  
 Dislike  
 from As-  
 sociations  
 of Ideas.*

II. THERE are indeed many Faces which at first View are apt to raise Dislike ; but this is generally not from any Deformity which of it self is positively displeasing, but either from want of *expected Beauty*, or much more from their carrying some natural indications of *morally bad Dispositions*, which we all acquire a Faculty of discerning in *Countenances, Airs, and Gestures*. That this is not occasion'd by any Form positively disgusting, will appear from this, That if upon long acquaintance we are sure of finding *sweetness of Temper, Humanity and Cheerfulness*, altho the bodily Form continues, it shall give us no Disgust or Displeasure ; whereas if any thing were naturally disagreeable, or the occasion of Pain, or positive Distaste, it would always continue so, even altho the Aversion we might have toward it were counterbalanc'd by other Considerations. There are Horrors rais'd by some Objects, which are only the Effect of *Fear* for our selves, or *Compassion* towards others, when either *Reason*, or some foolish *Association of Ideas*, makes us apprehend Danger, and not the Effect of any thing in the Form it self : for we find that most of those Objects which excite Horror at first, when Experience or Reason has remov'd the Fear, may become the occasions of Pleasure ; as *ravenous Beasts, a tempestuous Sea, a craggy Precipice, a dark shady Valley*.

III. WE

III. WE shall see \* hereafter, " That *Associations of Ideas* make Objects pleasant, and delightful, which are not naturally apt to give any such Pleasures; and the same way, the *casual Conjunctions of Ideas* may give a Disgust, where there is nothing disagreeable in the Form it self." And this is the occasion of many fantastick Aversions to Figures of some Animals, and to some other Forms: Thus *Swine, Serpents* of all Kinds, and some *Insects* really beautiful enough, are beheld with Aversion by many People, who have got *some accidental Ideas associated* to them. And for *Distastes* of this Kind, no other Account can be given.

IV. BUT as to the *universal Agreement* of Mankind in their *Sense of Beauty* from *Uniformity amidst Variety*, we must consult Experience: and as we allow all Men Reason, since all Men are capable of understanding simple Arguments, tho few are capable of complex Demonstrations; so in this Case it must be sufficient to prove *this Sense of Beauty universal*, " if all Men are better pleas'd with *Uniformity* in the simpler Instances than *the contrary*, even when there is no Advantage observ'd attending it; and likewise if all Men, according as

\* See below *Art.* 11, 12. of this Section.

Sect. 6. " their Capacity enlarges, so as to receive  
 ~~~~~ " and compare more complex Ideas, have  
 " a greater Delight in *Uniformity*, and are
 " pleas'd with its more complex Kinds,
 " both *Original* and *Relative*."

Now let us consider if ever any Person was void of *this Sense* in the simpler Instances. Few Trials have been made in the simplest Instances of *Harmony*, because as soon as we find an *Ear* incapable of relishing complex Compositions, such as our *Tunes* are, no farther Pains are employ'd about such. But in *Figures*, did ever any Man make choice of a *Trapezium*, or any irregular *Curve*, for the *Ichnography* or Plan of his House, without Necessity, or some great Motive of Convenience? or to make the opposite Walls *not parallel*, or *unequal* in Height? Were ever *Trapeziums*, irregular *Polygons* or *Curves* chosen for the Forms of *Doors* or *Windows*, tho these Figures might have answer'd the Uses as well, and would have often sav'd a great part of the Time, Labour and Expence to Workmen, which is now employ'd in suiting the Stones and Timber to the *regular* Forms? Among all the fantastick Modes of *Dress*, none was ever quite void of *Uniformity*, if it were only in the *resemblance* of the two Sides of the same *Robe*, and in *some general Aptitude* to the human Form. The *Pictish Painting* had always *relative Beauty*, by resemblance
 to

to other Objects, and often those Objects Sect. 6. were *originally beautiful*: however justly we might here apply HORACE's Censure of impertinent Descriptions in *Poetry*,

Sed non erat his locus——*.

But never were any so extravagant as to affect such Figures as are made by *the casual spilling* of liquid Colours. Who was ever pleas'd with an *inequality* of Heights in *Windows* of the same Range, or *dissimilar Shapes* of them? with *unequal Legs* or *Arms*, *Eyes* or *Cheeks* in a *Mistress*? It must however be acknowledg'd, "That *Interest* may often "counterbalance our *Sense of Beauty*, in "this Affair as well as in others, and superior good *Qualitys* may make us overlook "such Imperfections."

V. NAY farther, it may perhaps appear, *Real Beauty* "That *Regularity* and *Uniformity* are so com-
"piously diffus'd thro' the *Universe*, and we ^{ty alone} ^{pleases.}
"are so readily determin'd to pursue *this* as
"the Foundation of *Beauty* in *Works of Art*,
"that there is scarcely any thing ever fancy'd as *Beautiful*, where there is not really
"something of this *Uniformity* and *Regularity*." We are indeed often mistaken in imagining that there is the greatest possible *Beauty*, where it is but very imperfect; but

* Hor. de Arte Poet. v. 19.

Sect. 6. still it is some degree of *Beauty*, which pleases, altho there may be higher Degrees which we do not observe; and our *Sense* acts with full Regularity when we are pleas'd, altho we are kept by a false Prejudice from pursuing Objects which would please us more.

A G O T H, for instance, is mistaken, when from Education he imagines the *Architecture* of his Country to be the most perfect: and a *Conjunction* of some *hostile Ideas*, may make him have an Aversion to *Roman Buildings*, and study to demolish them, as some of our *Reformers* did the *Popish Buildings*, not being able to separate the Ideas of the superstitious Worship from the Forms of the Buildings where it was practis'd: and yet it is still *real Beauty* which pleases the G O T H, founded upon *Uniformity amidst Variety*. For the *Gothick Pillars* are *uniform* to each other, not only in their *Sections*, which are *Lozenge-form'd*; but also in their *Heights* and *Ornaments*: Their *Arches* are not one *uniform Curve*, but, yet they are *Segments* of *similar Curves*, and generally equal in the same Ranges. The very *Indian Buildings* have some kind of *Uniformity*, and many of the EASTERN NATIONS, tho they differ much from us, yet have great *Regularity* in their Manner, as well as the ROMANS in theirs. Our *Indian Screens*, which wonderfully supply our Imaginations with Ideas
 v, in which *Nature* is very chur-
 lish

to other Objects, and often those Objects Sect. 6. were *originally beautiful*: however justly we might here apply HORACE'S Censure of impertinent Descriptions in *Poetry*,

Sed non erat his locus——*.

But never were any so extravagant as to affect such Figures as are made by *the casual spilling* of liquid Colours. Who was ever pleas'd with an *inequality* of Heights in *Windows* of the same Range, or *dissimilar Shapes* of them? with *unequal Legs* or *Arms*, *Eyes* or *Cheeks* in a *Mistress*? It must however be acknowledg'd, "That *Interest* may often "counterbalance our *Sense of Beauty*, in "this Affair as well as in others, and superior good *Qualitys* may make us overlook "such Imperfections."

V. NAY farther, it may perhaps appear, *Real Beauty* "That *Regularity* and *Uniformity* are so *commonly alone* "piously diffus'd thro' the *Universe*, and we *please* "are so readily determin'd to pursue *this* as "the Foundation of *Beauty* in *Works of Art*, "that there is scarcely any thing ever fancy'd as *Beautiful*, where there is not really "something of this *Uniformity* and *Regularity*." We are indeed often mistaken in imagining that there is the greatest possible *Beauty*, where it is but very imperfect; but

* Hor. de Arte Poet. v. 19.

Sect. 6.




VII. WHAT has been said will probably be assented to, if we always remember in our Inquiries into the *Universality* of the *Sense of Beauty*, "That there may be *real Beauty*, " where there is not the *greatest*; and that " there are an Infinity of different Forms " which may all have some *Unity*, and yet " differ from each other." So that Men may have different Fancys of *Beauty*, and yet *Uniformity* be the *universal Foundation* of our Approbation of any Form whatsoever as *Beautiful*. And we shall find that it is so in the *Architecture*, *Gardening*, *Dress*, *Equippage*, and *Furniture* of Houses, even among the most uncultivated Nations; where *Uniformity* still pleases, without any other Advantage than the Pleasure of the Contemplation of it.

*Diversity
of Judgments con-
cerning our
Senses.*

VIII. IT will deserve our Consideration on this Subject, how, in like Cases, we form very different Judgments concerning the *internal* and *external Senses*. Nothing is more ordinary among those, who after Mr. LOCKE have rejected *innate Ideas*, than to alledge, "That all our Relish for *Beauty*, " and *Order*, is either from prospect of *Advantage*, *Custom*, or *Education*," for no other Reason but the *Variety* of *Fancys* in the World: and from this they conclude, "That our *Fancys* do not arise from any " *natural Power of Perception*, or *Sense*."

And

And yet all allow our *external Senses* to be Sect. 6. *Natural*, and that the Pleasures or Pains of  their Sensations, however they may be increas'd, or diminish'd, by *Custom*, or *Education*, and counterbalanc'd by *Interest*, yet are really antecedent to *Custom*, *Habit*, *Education*, or Prospect of *Interest*. Now it is certain, "That there is at least as " great a variety of Fancys about their Objects, as the Objects of *Beauty*:" Nay it is much more difficult, and perhaps impossible, to bring the Fancys or Relishes of the *external Senses* to any general Foundation at all, or to find any Rule for the agreeable or disagreeable: and yet we all allow " that these " are *natural Powers of Perception*."

IX. THE Reason of this different Judgment can be no other than this, That we have got distinct Names for the *external Senses*, and none, or very few, for the *Internal*; and by this are led, as in many other Cases, to look upon the former as some way more fix'd and *real* and *natural*, than the latter. The *Sense of Harmony* has got its Name, viz. a *good Ear*; and we are generally brought to acknowledge this a *natural Power of Perception*, or a *Sense* some way distinct from *Hearing*: now it is certain, "That there is " as necessary a Perception of *Beauty* upon " the presence of *regular Objects*, as of *Harmony* upon hearing certain *Sounds*."

Sect. 6.

An internal Sense does not presuppose innate Ideas.

X. BUT let it be observ'd here once for all, "That an *internal Sense* no more presupposes an *innate Idea*, or principle of Knowledge, than the *external*." Both are *natural Powers of Perception, or Determinations of the Mind* to receive necessarily certain Ideas from the presence of Objects. The *internal Sense* is, a *passive Power of receiving Ideas of Beauty from all Objects in which there is Uniformity amidst Variety*. Nor does there seem any thing more difficult in this matter, than that the Mind should be always determin'd to receive the Idea of *Sweet*, when Particles of such a Form enter the Pores of the Tongue; or to have the Idea of *Sound* upon any quick Undulation of the Air. The one seems to have as little Connection with its Idea, as the other: And the *same Power* could with equal ease constitute the former the occasion of Ideas as the latter.

Associations cause of disagreements.

(XI. THE *Association* of Ideas * above hinted at, is one great Cause of the apparent Diversity of Fancys in the *Sense of Beauty*, as well as in the *external Senses*; and often makes Men have an aversion to Objects of *Beauty*, and a liking to others void of it, but under different Conceptions than those of *Beauty* or *Deformity*. And here it may not be improper to give some Instances of some

* See above Art. 3. of this Section,

of these *Associations*. The *Beauty* of *Trees*, Sect. 6. their *cool Shades*, and their *Aptness* to conceal from Observation, have made *Groves* and *Woods* the usual Retreat to those who love *Solitude*, especially to the *Religious*, the *Pensive*, the *Melancholy*, and the *Amorous*. And do not we find that we have so join'd the Ideas of these Dispositions of Mind with those external Objects, that they always recur to us along with them? The Cunning of the *Heathen Priests* might make such obscure Places the Scene of the fictitious Appearances of their *Deitys*; and hence we join Ideas of something *Divine* to them. We know the like Effect in the Ideas of our *Churches*, from the perpetual use of them only in *religious Exercises*. The faint Light in *Gotbick Buildings* has had the same Association of a very foreign Idea, which our Poet shews in his *Epitbet*,

————— *A Dim religious Light.* *

IN like manner it is known, That often all the Circumstances of *Actions*, or *Places*, or *Dresses* of Persons, or *Voice*, or *Song*, which have occur'd at any time together, when we were strongly affected by any Passion, will be so connected that any one of these will make all the rest recur. And this is often the occasion both of great Pleasure

* *Mit. Il Penseroso.*

Sect. 6. and Pain, Delight and Aversion to many Objects, which of themselves might have been perfectly indifferent to us : but these *Approbations*, or *Dislikes*, are remote from the Ideas of *Beauty*, being plainly different Ideas.

Musick,
how it
pleases
differently.

XII. THERE is also another Charm in *Musick* to various Persons, which is distinct from the *Harmony*, and is occasion'd by its raising agreeable Passions. The *human Voice* is obviously vary'd by all the stronger Passions ; now when our *Ear* discerns any resemblance between the *Air* of a *Tune*, whether sung or play'd upon an Instrument, either in its *Time*, or *Modulation*, or any other Circumstance, to the sound of the *human Voice* in any Passion, we shall be touch'd by it in a very sensible manner, and have *Melancholy*, *Joy*, *Gravity*, *Thoughtfulness* excited in us by a sort of *Sympathy* or *Contagion*. The same Connexion is observable between the very *Air* of a *Tune*, and the *Words* expressing any Passion which we have heard it fitted to, so that they shall both recur to us together, tho' but one of them affects our *Senses*.

Now in such a diversity of pleasing or displeasing Ideas which may be join'd with Forms of *Bodys*, or *Tunes*, when Men are of such different Dispositions, and prone to such a variety of Passions, it is no wonder " that " they should often disagree in their Fancies " of

“ of Objects, even altho their *Sense of Beau-* Sect. 6:
ty and *Harmony* were *perfectly uniform* ;” ~~~~~
 because many other Ideas may either please
 or displease, according to Persons Tempers,
 and past Circumstances. We know how
 agreeable a very *wild Country* may be to any
 Person who has spent the chearful Days of
 his Youth in it, and how disagreeable very
beautiful Places may be, if they were the
 Scenes of his Misery. And this may help
 us in many Cases to account for the Diver-
 sitys of Fancy, without denying the *Unifor-*
mity of our *internal Sense of Beauty*.

XIII. GRANDEUR and *Novelty* are two
 Ideas different from *Beauty*, which often re-
 commend Objects to us. The Reason of
 this is foreign to the present Subject. See
Spectator N^o 412.

S E C T. VII.

*Of the Power of Custom, Education,
and Example, as to our internal
Senses.*

I. C U S T O M, *Education*, and *Example* are so often alledg'd in this Affair, as the occasion of our Relish for *beautiful Objects*, and for our Approbation of, or Delight in a certain *Conduct in Life* in a *moral Species*, that it is necessary to examine these three particularly, to make it appear "that there is a *natural Power of Perception*, or *Sense of Beauty* in Objects, antecedent to all *Custom, Education*, or *Example*."

*Custom
gives no
new Sense.*

II. C U S T O M, as distinct from the other two, operates in this manner. As to Actions, it only gives a disposition to the Mind or Body more easily to perform those Actions which have been frequently repeated, but never leads us to apprehend them under any other View than what we were capable of apprehending them under at first ; nor gives us any new Power of Perception about them. We are naturally capable of Sentiments of *Fear*, and *Dread* of any powerful *Presence* ;
and

and so *Custom* may connect the Ideas of religious Horror to certain Buildings: but *Custom* could never have made a *Being* naturally incapable of *Fear*, receive such Ideas. So had we no other Power of perceiving, or forming Ideas of Actions, but as they were *advantageous* or *disadvantageous*, *Custom* could only have made us more ready at perceiving the *Advantage* or *Disadvantage* of Actions. But this is not to our present purpose.

As to our Approbation of, or Delight in external Objects. When the *Blood* or *Spirits*, of which *Anatomists* talk, are rous'd, quicken'd, or fermented as they call it, in any agreeable manner by Medicine or Nutriment; or any *Glands* frequently stimulated to Secretion; it is certain that to preserve the Body easy, we shall delight in Objects of Taste which of themselves are not immediately pleasant to it, if they promote that agreeable State which the Body had been *accustom'd* to. Farther, *Custom* will so alter the State of the Body, that what at first rais'd uneasy Sensations will cease to do so, or perhaps raise another agreeable Idea of the same Sense; but *Custom* can never give us any Idea of a Sense different from those we had antecedent to it: It will never make the *Blind* approve Objects as *coloured*, or those who have no *Taste* approve Meats as *delicious*, however they might approve them as *Strengthening* or *Exhilarating*. Were our

Sect. 7. *Glands* and the Parts about them void of Feeling, did we perceive no Pleasure from certain brisker Motions in the *Blood*, *Custom* could never make stimulating or intoxicating Fluids or Medicines agreeable, when they were not so to the Taste; So by like Reasoning, had we no *natural Sense* of *Beauty* from *Uniformity*, *Custom* could never have made us imagine any *Beauty* in Objects; if we had had no *Ear*, *Custom* could never have given us the Pleasures of *Harmony*. When we have these *natural Senses* antecedently, *Custom* may make us capable of extending our Views farther, and of receiving more complex Ideas of *Beauty* in Bodys, or *Harmony* in Sounds, by increasing our Attention and quickness of Perception. But however *Custom* may increase our Power of receiving or comparing complex Ideas, yet it seems rather to weaken than strengthen the Ideas of *Beauty*, or the Impressions of Pleasure from regular Objects; else how is it possible that any Person could go into the open Air on a sunny Day, or clear Evening, without the most extravagant Raptures, such as MILTON * represents our *Ancestor* in upon his first Creation? For such any Person would certainly fall into, upon the first Representation of such a Scene.

* See *Paradise Lost*, Book 8.

CUSTOM in like manner may make it easier for any Person to discern the Use of a complex Machine, and approve it as *advantageous*; but he would never have imagin'd it *Beautiful*, had he no *natural Sense* of *Beauty*. *Custom* may make us quicker in apprehending the Truth of complex *Theorems*, but we all find the Pleasure or *Beauty* of *Theorems* as strong at first as ever. *Custom* makes us more capable of retaining and comparing complex Ideas, so as to discern more complicated *Uniformity*, which escapes the Observation of *Novices* in any Art; but all this presupposes a *natural Sense* of *Beauty* in *Uniformity*: for had there been nothing in Forms, which was constituted the necessary occasion of Pleasure to our Senses, no Repetition of indifferent Ideas as to Pleasure or Pain, *Beauty* or *Deformity*, could ever have made them grow pleasing or displeasing.

III. THE Effect of EDUCATION is this, Nor Education. that thereby we receive many speculative Opinions, which are sometimes true and sometimes false; and are often led to believe that Objects may be naturally apt to give Pleasure or Pain to our external Senses, which in reality have no such Qualities. And farther, by *Education* there are some strong Associations of Ideas without any Reason, by mere Accident sometimes, as well as by Design, which it is very hard for us ever

Sect. 7. after to break asunder. Thus Aversions are rais'd to Darknes, and to many kinds of Meat, and to certain innocent Actions: Approbations without Ground are rais'd in like manner. But in all these Instances, *Education* never makes us apprehend any Qualities in Objects, which we have not *naturally* Senses capable of perceiving. We know what Sickness of the Stomach is, and may without Ground believe that very healthful Meats will raise this; we by our Sight and Smell receive disagreeable Ideas of the Food of Swine, and their Styes, and perhaps cannot prevent the recurring of these Ideas at Table: but never were Men naturally *Blind* prejudic'd against Objects as of a disagreeable Colour, or in favour of others as of a beautiful Colour; they perhaps hear Men dispraise one Colour, and may imagine this Colour to be some quite different sensible Quality of the other Senses, but that is all. And the same way, a Man naturally void of *Taste* could by no *Education* receive the Ideas of Taste, or be prejudic'd in favour of Meats as delicious: So, had we ~~no natural Sense~~ of *Beauty* and *Harmony*, we could never be prejudic'd in favour of Objects or Sounds as *Beautiful* or *Harmonious*. *Education* may make an unattentive GOTH imagine that his *Countrymen* have attain'd the Perfection of *Architecture*; and an Aversion to their Enemies the ROMANS, may have join'd some disagreeable Ideas to their very Buildings, and
excited

excited them to their Demolition ; but he Sect. 7.
had never form'd these Prejudices, had he
been void of a *Sense* of *Beauty*. Did ever
blind Men debate whether *Purple* or *Scarlet*
were the finer *Colour* ? or could any *Educa-*
tion prejudice them in favour of either as *Co-*
lours ?

THUS *Education* and *Custom* may influ-
ence our *internal Senses*, where they are
antecedently, by enlarging the Capacity of
our Minds to retain and compare the Parts
of complex Compositions : And then if the
finest Objects are presented to us, we grow
conscious of a Pleasure far superior to what
common Performances excite. But all this
presupposes our *Sense* of *Beauty* to be *natural*.
Instruction in *Anatomy*, Observation of *Na-*
ture, and of those *Airs* of the Countenance
and *Attitudes* of Body, which accompany
any *Sentiment*, *Action*, or *Passion*, may enable
us to know where there is a just Imitation :
but why should an exact Imitation please up-
on Observation, if we had not *naturally* a
Sense of *Beauty* in it, more than the observ-
ing the Situation of fifty or a hundred Peb-
bles thrown at random ? and should we ob-
serve them ever so often, we should never
dream of their growing *Beautiful*.

IV. THERE is something worth our Ob-
servation as to the manner of rooting out the
Prejudices of *Education*, not quite foreign to
the *Prejudices* how re-
moved.

Sect. 7. the present purpose. When the *Prejudice* arises from Associations of Ideas without any natural Connection, we must frequently force our selves to bear Representations of those Objects, or the Use of them when separated from the disagreeable Idea ; and this may at last disjoin the unreasonable Association, especially if we can join new agreeable Ideas to them : Thus Opinions of *Superstition* are best remov'd by pleasant Conversation of Persons we esteem for their *Virtue*, or by observing that they despise such Opinions. But when the *Prejudice* arises from an Apprehension or Opinion of *natural Evil*, as the Attendant, or Consequent of any Object or Action ; if the *Evil* be apprehended to be the constant and immediate Attendant, a few Trials without receiving any Damage will remove the *Prejudice*, as in that against *Meats* : But where the *Evil* is not represented as the perpetual Concomitant, but as what may possibly or probably at some time or other accompany the use of the Object, there must be frequent Reasoning with our selves, or a long Series of Trials without any Detriment, to remove the *Prejudice* ; such is the Case of our Fear of *Spirits* in the *dark*, and in *Church-yards*. And when the *Evil* is represented as the Consequence perhaps a long time after, or in a *future State*, it is then hardest of all to remove the *Prejudice* ; and this is only to be effected by slow Processes of Reason, because in this Case there
can

can be no Trials made: and this is the Case Sect. 7. of *superstitious Prejudices* against Actions apprehended as offensive to the DEITY; and hence it is that they are so hard to be rooted out.

V. EXAMPLE seems to operate in this manner. We are conscious that we act very much for *Pleasure*, or *private Good*; and are thereby led to imagine that others do so too: hence we conclude there must be some *Perfection* in the Objects which we see others pursue, and *Evil* in those which we observe them constantly shunning. Or, the *Example* of others may serve to us as so many Trials to remove the Apprehension of *Evil* in Objects to which we had an Aversion. But all this is done upon an Apprehension of *Qualities* perceivable by the Senses which we have; for no *Example* will induce the *Blind* or *Deaf* to pursue Objects as *Colour'd* or *Sonorous*; nor could *Example* any more engage us to pursue Objects as *Beautiful* or *Harmonious*, had we no *natural Sense* of *Beauty* or *Harmony*.

EXAMPLE may make us conclude without Examination, that our Countrymen have obtain'd the Perfection of *Beauty* in their *Works*, or that there is less *Beauty* in the Orders of *Architecture* or *Painting* us'd in other *Nations*, and so content our selves with very imperfect Forms. And Fear of Contempt as

Sect. 7. void of *Taste* or *Genius*, often makes us join in approving the Performances of the reputed Masters in our Country, and restrains those who have *naturally* a fine *Genius*, or the *internal Senses* very acute, from studying to obtain the greatest Perfection; it makes also those of a bad *Taste* pretend to a livelier Perception of *Beauty* than in reality they have: But all this presupposes some *natural Power* of receiving Ideas of *Beauty* and *Harmony*. Nor can *Example* effect any thing farther, unless it be to lead Men to pursue Objects by implicit Faith, for some Perfection which the Pursuer is conscious he does not know, or which perhaps is some very different Quality from the Idea perceiv'd by those of a good *Taste* in such Affairs.

S E C T. VIII.

Of the Importance of the internal Senses in Life, and the final Causes of them.

I. **T**HE busy part of Mankind may ^{Importance of} look upon these things as airy ^{the inter-} Dreams of an inflam'd Imagination, which ^{nal Senses.} a wise Man should despise, who rationally pursues more solid Possessions independent on Fancy: but a little Reflection will convince us, "That the Gratifications of our *internal Senses* are as *natural, real, and satisfying* Enjoyments as any sensible Pleasure whatsoever; and that they are the chief Ends for which we commonly pursue *Wealth* and *Power*." For how is *Wealth* or *Power* *advantageous*? How do they make us *happy*, or prove *good* to us? No otherwise than as they supply Gratifications to our *Senses* or *Facultys* of perceiving Pleasure. Now, are these *Senses* or *Facultys* only the *External ones*? No: Every body sees, that a small portion of *Wealth* or *Power* will supply more Pleasures of the *external Senses* than we can enjoy; we know that Scarcity often heightens these Perceptions more than Abundance, which cloy's that Appetite which

Sect. 8. is necessary to all Pleasure in Enjoyment :
 and hence the *Poet's* Advice is perfectly
 just ;

—— *Tu pulmentaria quære*
Sudando —— *

In short, the only use of a great Fortune above a very small one (except in good Offices and moral Pleasures) must be to supply us with the Pleasures of *Beauty, Order, and Harmony.*

It is true indeed, that the noblest Pleasures of the *internal Senses*, in the Contemplation of the Works of *Nature*, are expos'd to every one without Expence ; the *Poor* and the *Low*, may have as free use of these Objects, in this way, as the *Wealthy* or *Powerful*. And even in Objects which may be appropriated, the *Property* is of little Consequence to the Enjoyment of their Beauty, which is often enjoy'd by others beside the *Proprietor*. But then there are other Objects of these *internal Senses*, which require *Wealth*, or *Power* to procure the use of them as frequently as we desire ; as appears in *Architecture, Musick, Gardening, Painting, Dress, Equipage, Furniture* ; of which we cannot have the full Enjoyment without

* *Hor, Lib. 2. Sat. 2. v. 20.*

Property. And there are some confus'd *Ima-* Sect. 8.
ginations, which often lead us to pursue
Property, even in Objects where it is not ne-
cessary to the true Enjoyment of them.
These are the *ultimate Motives* of our pur-
suing the greater Degrees of *Wealth*, where
there are no generous Intentions of virtuous
Actions.

THIS is confirm'd by the constant Prac-
tice of the very Enemies to these *Senses*.
As soon as they think they are got above
the *World*, or extricated from the Hurrys
of *Avarice* and *Ambition*; banish'd *Nat-*
ure will return upon them, and set them
upon Pursuits of *Beauty* and *Order* in their
Houses, *Gardens*, *Dress*, *Table*, *Equipage*.
They are never easy without some degree of
this; and were their Hearts open to our
View, we should see *Regularity*, *Decency*,
Beauty, as what their Wishes terminate up-
on, either to themselves or their Posterity;
and what their Imagination is always pre-
senting to them as the possible Effects of
their Labours. Nor without this, could they
ever justify their Pursuits to themselves.

THERE may perhaps be some Instances
of human Nature perverted into a thorough
Miser, who loves nothing but Money, and
whose Fancy arises no higher than the cold
dull Thought of Possession; but such an In-
stance in an Age, must not be made the
Stan-

Sect. 8. Standard of Mankind against the whole Body.

IF we examine the Pursuits of the *Luxurious*, who is imagin'd wholly devoted to his Belly; we shall generally find that the far greater part of his Expence is employ'd to procure other Sensations than those of Taste; such as *fine Attendants, regular Apartments, Services of Plate*, and the like. Besides, a large share of the Preparation must be suppos'd design'd for some sort of generous friendly Purposes, to please *Acquaintance, Strangers, Parasites*. How few would be contented to enjoy the same Sensations alone, in a Cottage, or out of earthen Pitchers? To conclude this Point, however these *internal Sensations* may be overlook'd in our Philosophical Inquiries about the human Facultys, we shall find in Fact, "That they employ us more, and are more efficacious in *Life*, either to our *Pleasure*, or *Uneasiness*, than all our *external Senses* taken together."

Final
Cause of
the internal
Senses.

II. As to the *final Causes* of this *internal Sense*, we need not inquire, "Whether, to an *almighty*, and *all-knowing Being*, there be any real Excellence in *regular Forms*, in acting by *general Laws*, in knowing by *Theorems*?" We seem scarce capable of answering such Questions any way; nor need we inquire, "Whether other Animals
" may

“ may not discern *Uniformity* and *Regula-* Sect. 8.
 “ *rity* in Objects which escape our Observa-
 “ tion, and may not perhaps have their
 “ Senses constituted so as to perceive *Beauty*
 “ from the same Foundation which we do,
 “ in Objects which our Senses are not fit to
 “ examine or compare?” We shall confine
 our selves to a Subject where we have some
 certain Foundation to go upon, and only in-
 quire, “ if we can find any Reasons worthy
 “ of the great AUTHOR of *Nature*, for ma-
 “ king such a Connection between regular
 “ Objects, and the Pleasure which accom-
 “ panys our Perceptions of them ; or, what
 “ Reasons might possibly influence him to
 “ create the *World*, as it at present is, as far
 “ as we can observe, every where full of *Re-*
 “ *gularity* and *Uniformity* ?”

LET it be here observ'd, that as far as we
 know concerning any of the great Bodys of
 the *Universe*, we see Forms and Motions real-
 ly *Beautiful* to our Senses ; and if we were
 plac'd in any *Planet*, the *apparent Courses*
 would still be *Regular* and *Uniform*, and con-
 sequently *Beautiful* to us. Now this gives us
 no small Ground to imagine, that if the Sen-
 ses of their Inhabitants are in the same man-
 ner adapted to their Habitations, and the Ob-
 jects occurring to their View, as ours are
 here, their Senses must be upon the same ge-
 neral Foundation with ours,

H

BUT

Sect. 8.



BUT to return to the Questions : What occurs to resolve them, may be contain'd in the following Propositions.

1. THE Manner of Knowledge by *universal Theorems*, and of Operation by *universal Causes*, as far as we can attain it, must be most convenient for *Beings* of limited Understanding and Power ; since this prevents Distraction in their Understandings thro' the Multiplicity of Propositions, and Toil and Weariness to their Powers of Action : and consequently their *Reason*, without any *Sense* of *Beauty*, must approve of such Methods when they reflect upon their apparent *Advantage*.

2. THOSE Objects of Contemplation in which there is *Uniformity amidst Variety*, are more distinctly and easily comprehended and retain'd, than *irregular Objects* ; because the accurate Observation of one or two Parts often leads to the Knowledge of the Whole : Thus we can from a *Pillar* or two, with an intermediate *Arch*, and *Cornice*, form a distinct Idea of a whole *regular Building*, if we know of what Species it is, and have its Length and Breadth : From a *Side* and *solid Angle*, we have the whole *regular Solid* ; the measuring one *Side*, gives the whole *Square* ; one *Radius*, the whole *Circle* ; two *Diameters*, an *Oval* ; one *Ordinate* and *Ab-*
scissa,

scissa, the *Parabola*; thus also other *Fi-Sect.* 8. figures, if they have any Regularity, are in every Point determin'd from a few *Data*: Whereas it must be a long Attention to a vast Multiplicity of Parts, which can ascertain or fix the Idea of any *irregular Form*, or give any distinct Idea of it, or make us capable of retaining it; as appears in the Forms of *rude Rocks*, and *Pebbles*, and *confus'd Heaps*, even when the Multitude of sensible Parts is not so great as in the *regular Forms*: for such *irregular Objects* distract the *Mind* with *Variety*, since for every sensible Part we must have a quite different Idea.

3. FROM these two Propositions it follows, "That *Beings* of limited Understanding and Power, if they act rationally for their own *Interest*, must choose to operate by the *simplest Means*, to invent *general Theorems*, and to study *regular Objects*, if they be as useful as *irregular ones*; that they may avoid the endless Toil of producing each Effect by a separate Operation, of searching out each different Truth by a different Inquiry, and of imprinting the endless *Variety* of dissimilar Ideas in *irregular Objects*."

4. BUT then, beside this Consideration of *Interest*, there does not appear to be any necessary Connection, antecedent to the Constitution of the AUTHOR of *Nature*, be-

Sect. 8. tween *regular Forms, Actions, Theorems*, and
 ~~~~~ that sudden sensible *Pleasure* excited in us up-  
 on observation of them, even when we do  
 not reflect upon the Advantage mention'd in  
 the former Proposition. And possibly, the  
 DEITY could have form'd us so as to have  
 receiv'd no immediate Pleasure from such  
 Objects, or connected Pleasure to those of a  
 quite contrary Nature. We have a tolerable  
 Presumption of this in the *Beautys* of various  
 Animals; they give some small Pleasure in-  
 deed to every one who views them, but then  
 every one seems far more delighted with the  
 peculiar *Beautys* of its own *Species*, than  
 with those of a different one, which seldom  
 raise any desire. This makes it probable,  
 that the *Pleasure* is not the necessary Result  
 of the *Form* it self, otherwise it would e-  
 qually affect all Apprehensions in what *Spe-*  
*cies* soever; but depends upon a voluntary  
*Constitution*, adapted to preserve the *Regu-*  
*larity* of the *Universe*, and is probably not the  
 Effect of *Necessity* but *Choice* in the S U-  
 P R E M E A G E N T, who constituted our *Sen-*  
*ses*.

From the  
 divine  
 Goodness.

5. Now from the whole we may con-  
 clude, " That supposing the DEITY so kind  
 " as to connect *sensible Pleasure* with certain  
 " Actions or Contemplations, beside the ra-  
 " tional Advantage perceivable in them;  
 " there is a great moral Necessity, from his  
 " Goodness, that the internal Sense of Men  
 should

“ should be constituted as it is at present, so Sect. 8.  
 “ as to make *Uniformity amidst Variety* the  
 “ Occasion of Pleasure.” For were it not so,  
 but on the contrary, if *irregular Objects, particular Truths* and *Operations* pleased us, beside the endless Toil this would involve us in, there must arise a perpetual Dissatisfaction in all rational Agents with themselves; since *Reason* and *Interest* would lead us to simple *general Causes*, while a *contrary Sense* of *Beauty* would make us disapprove them: *Universal Theorems* would appear to our Understanding the best Means of increasing our Knowledge of what might be useful; while a *contrary Sense* would set us on the search after *particular Truths*: *Thought* and *Reflection* would recommend Objects with *Uniformity amidst Variety*, and yet this *perverse Instinct* would involve us in Labyrinths of *Confusion* and *Dissemblance*. And hence we see “ how  
 “ suitable it is to the *sagacious Bounty* which  
 “ we suppose in the DEITY, to constitute  
 “ our *internal Senses* in the manner in which  
 “ they are; by which Pleasure is join’d to  
 “ the Contemplation of *those Objects* which  
 “ a finite *Mind* can best imprint and retain  
 “ the Ideas of with the least Distraction; to  
 “ *those Actions* which are most efficacious,  
 “ and fruitful in useful Effects; and to *those*  
 “ *Theorems* which most enlarge our *Minds*.”

III. As to the other Question, “ What *Reason of*  
 “ Reason might influence the DEITY, whom *general*  
 “ Laws.



Sect. 8. “no Diversity of Operation could distract or  
 “weary, to choose to operate by *simplest*  
 “*Means* and *general Laws*, and to diffuse  
 “*Uniformity, Proportion* and *Similitude* thro’  
 “all the Parts of *Nature* which we can ob-  
 “serve?” Perhaps there may be some real  
 Excellence in this Manner of Operation, and  
 in these Forms, which we know not: but  
 this we may probably say, that since the *di-*  
*vine Goodness*, for the Reasons above men-  
 tion’d, has constituted our *Sense* of *Beauty* as  
 it is at present, the same *Goodness* might  
 have determined the *Great ARCHITECT* to  
 adorn this stupendous *Theatre* in a manner  
 agreeable to the Spectators, and that part  
 which is expos’d to the Observation of Men,  
 so as to be pleasant to them; especially if we  
 suppose that he design’d to discover himself  
 to them as *Wise* and *Good*, as well as *Power-*  
*ful*: for thus he has given them greater Evi-  
 dences, thro’ the whole *Earth*, of his *Art*,  
*Wisdom*, *Design*, and *Bounty*, than they can  
 possibly have for the *Reason*, *Counsel*, and  
*Good-will* of their fellow-Creatures, with  
 whom they converse, with full Persuasion of  
 these qualities in them, about their common  
 Affairs.

As to the Operations of the DEITY by  
*general Laws*, there is still a farther Reason  
 from a *Sense* superior to these already con-  
 sider’d, even that of VIRTUE, or the *Beauty*  
 of *Action*, which is the Foundation of our  
 greatest

greatest Happiness. For were there no *gene-* Sect. 8.  
*ral Laws* fix'd in the Course of *Nature*, there  
 could be no *Prudence* or *Design* in Men, no  
*rational Expectation* of Effects from Causes, no  
*Schemes* of Action projected, or any *regular*  
*Execution*. If then, according to the *Frame*  
 of our *Nature*, our greatest Happiness must  
 depend upon our Actions, as it may perhaps  
 be made appear it does, "The *Universe* must  
 " be govern'd, not by *particular Wills*, but  
 " by *general Laws*, upon which we can  
 " found our Expectations, and project our  
 " Schemes of Action." Nay farther, tho  
*general Laws* did ordinarily obtain, yet if the  
 DEITY usually stopp'd their Effects when-  
 ever it was necessary to prevent any parti-  
 cular Evils; this would effectually, and  
 justly supersede all human *Prudence* and *Care*  
 about Actions; since a superior *Mind* did  
 thus relieve Men from their Charge.

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A N

# I N Q U I R Y

CONCERNING

## M O R A L G O O D and E V I L.

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### I N T R O D U C T I O N.

*Moral  
Good and  
Evil.*

**T**HE Word MORAL GOODNESS, in this Treatise, denotes our Idea of *some Quality apprehended in Actions, which procures Approbation, attended with Desire of the Agents Happiness.* MORAL EVIL, denotes our Idea of a *contrary Quality, which excites Condemnation or Dislike.* Approbation and Condemnation are probably simple Ideas which cannot be farther explained. We must be contented with these imperfect Descriptions, until we discover whether we really have such Ideas, and what general *Foundation* there is in Nature for this Difference of Actions, as *morally Good or Evil,*

T H E S E

THESE Descriptions seem to contain an universally acknowledg'd Difference of *Moral Good* and *Evil*, from *Natural*. All Men who speak of *moral Good*, acknowledge that it procures *Approbation and Good-will* toward those we apprehend possess'd of it; whereas *natural Good* does not. In this matter Men must consult their own Breasts. How differently are they affected toward these they suppose possess'd of *Honesty, Faith, Generosity, Kindness*; and those who are possess'd of the *natural Goods*, such as *Houses, Lands, Gardens, Vineyards, Health, Strength, Sagacity*? We shall find that we necessarily love and approve the Possessors of the former; but the Possession of the latter procures no *Approbation or Good-will* at all toward the Possessor, but often contrary Affections of *Envy and Hatred*. In the same manner, whatever Quality we apprehend to be *morally Evil*, raises our Dislike toward the Person in whom we observe it, such as *Treachery, Cruelty, Ingratitude*; whereas we heartily love, esteem, and pity many who are expos'd to *natural Evils*, such as *Pain, Poverty, Hunger, Sickness, Death*,

Now the first Question on this Subject is, "Whence arise these different Ideas of "Actions?"

*Interest.*  
*Advantage.*

BECAUSE we shall afterwards frequently use the Words *Interest*, *Advantage*, *natural Good*, it is necessary here to fix their Ideas. The Pleasure in our sensible Perceptions of any kind, gives us our first Idea of *natural Good*, or *Happiness*; and then all Objects which are apt to excite this Pleasure are call'd *immediately Good*. Those Objects which may procure others immediately pleasant, are call'd *Advantageous*: and we pursue both Kinds from a View of *Interest*, or from *Self-Love*.

OUR *Sense* of Pleasure is antecedent to *Advantage* or *Interest*, and is the Foundation of it. We do not perceive Pleasure in Objects, because it is our *Interest* to do so; but Objects or Actions are *Advantageous*, and are pursu'd or undertaken from *Interest*, because we receive *Pleasure* from them. Our Perception of Pleasure is necessary, and nothing is *Advantageous* or *naturally Good* to us, but what is apt to raise Pleasure *mediately*, or *immediately*. Such Objects as we know, either from Experience of Sense, or Reason, to be *immediately*, or *mediately Advantageous*, or apt to minister Pleasure, we are said to pursue from *Self-Interest*, when our Intention is only to enjoy this Pleasure, which they have the Power of exciting. Thus *Meats*, *Drink*, *Harmony*, *fine Prospects*, *Painting*, *Statues*, are perceiv'd by our Senses to be *immediately Good*;

*Good*; and our Reason shews *Riches* and *Power* to be *mediately so*, that is, apt to furnish us with Objects of immediate Pleasure: and both Kinds of these *natural Goods* are pursu'd from *Interest*, or *Self-Love*.

Now the greatest part of our latter *Moralists* establish it as undeniable, "That all *moral Qualitys* have necessarily some Relation to the *Law* of a *Superior*, of sufficient *Power* to make us *Happy* or *Miserable*;" and since all *Laws* operate only by Sanctions of *Rewards*, or *Punishments*, which determine us to Obedience by Motives of *Self-Interest*, they suppose, "that it is thus that *Laws* do constitute some Actions *mediately Good*, or *Advantageous*, and others the same way *Disadvantageous*." They say indeed, "That a *benevolent Legislator* constitutes no Actions *Advantageous* to the Agent by Law, but such as in their own Nature tend to the *natural Good* of the *Whole*, or, at least, are not inconsistent with it; and that therefore we approve the *Virtue* of others, because it has some small Tendency to our *Happiness*, either from its own Nature, or from this general Consideration, That Obedience to a *benevolent Legislator*, is in general *Advantageous* to the *Whole*, and to us in particular; and that for the contrary Reasons alone, we disapprove the *Vice* of others, that is, the prohibited Action, as tending

" to

“ to our particular *Detriment* in some degree.” And then they maintain, “ That we are determin’d to Obedience to *Laws*, or deterr’d from Disobedience, merely by Motives of *Self-Interest*, to obtain either the *natural Good* arising from the commanded Action, or the *Rewards* promised by the Sanction ; or to avoid the *natural evil* Consequences of Disobedience, or at least the *Penaltys* of the *Law*.”

SOME other Moralists suppose, “ an immediate *natural Good* in the Actions call’d *Virtuous* ; that is, That we are determin’d to perceive some *Beauty* in the Actions of others, and to love the Agent, even without reflecting upon any *Advantage* which can any way redound to us from the Action ; that we have also a secret Sense of Pleasure arising from reflection upon such of our own Actions as we call *Virtuous*, even when we expect no other *Advantage* from them.” But they alledge at the same time, “ That we are excited to perform these Actions, even as we pursue, or purchase *Pictures, Statues, Landships*, from *Self-Interest*, to obtain this Pleasure which arises from Reflection upon the Action, or some other future Advantage.” The Design of the following Sections is to inquire into this matter ; and perhaps the Reasons to be offered may prove,

I. “ That

I. "THAT some Actions have to Men  
 " an *immediate Goodness* ; or, that by a *superior Sense*, which I call a *Moral one*, we  
 " *approve* the Actions of others, and perceive them to be their Perfection and  
 " Dignity, and are determin'd to love the  
 " Agent ; a like Perception we have in reflecting on such Actions of our own, without any View of *natural Advantage* from them."

II. IT may perhaps also appear, " That  
 " the *Affection, Desire, or Intention*, which  
 " gains *Approbation* to the Actions flowing  
 " from it, is not an Intention to obtain even  
 " this *sensible Pleasure* ; much less the *future Rewards* from Sanctions of Laws, or any  
 " other *natural Good*, which may be the  
 " Consequence of the *virtuous Action* ; but  
 " an intirely different Principle of Action  
 " from *Self-Love*, or Desire of private Good."





## S E C T. I.

*Of the Moral Sense by which we perceive Virtue and Vice, and approve or disapprove them in others.*

*Different  
Ideas of  
Moral  
and Natu-  
ral Good.*

I. **T**HAT the Perceptions of *moral Good and Evil*, are perfectly different from those of *natural Good*, or *Advantage*, every one must convince himself, by reflecting upon the different Manner in which he finds himself affected when these Objects occur to him. Had we no *Sense* of *Good* distinct from the *Advantage* or *Interest* arising from the external Senses, and the Perceptions of *Beauty* and *Harmony*; the Sensations and Affections toward a *fruitful Field*, or *commodious Habitation*, would be much the same with what we have toward a *generous Friend*, or any *noble Character*; for both are, or may be *advantageous* to us: And we should no more admire any Action, or love any Person in a distant *Country*, or *Age*, whose Influence could not extend to us, than we love the *Mountains* of *PERU*, while we are unconcern'd in the *Spanish Trade*. We should have the same Sentiments and Affections toward *inanimate Beings*, which we have toward *rational Agents*; which yet every one

## MORAL GOOD *and* EVIL. 111

one knows to be false. Upon Comparison, Sect. 1. we say, "Why should we approve or love *inanimate Beings*? They have no Intention of *Good* to us or to any other Person, their *Nature* makes them fit for our Uses, which they neither know nor study to serve. But it is not so with *rational Agents*: they study the *Interest*, and desire the *Happiness* of other Beings with whom they converse."

WE are all then conscious of the Difference between that *Approbation* or Perception of *moral Excellence*, which *Benevolence* excites toward the Person in whom we observe it, and that Opinion of *natural Goodness*, which only raises *Desire* of Possession toward the good Object. Now "what should make this Difference, if all Approbation, or *Sense* of *Good* be from Prospect of *Advantage*? Do not *inanimate Objects* promote our *Advantage*, as well as *Benevolent Persons* who do us Offices of *Kindness*, and *Friendship*? should we not then have the same endearing Approbation of both? or only the same cold Opinion of *Advantage* in both?" The Reason why it is not so, must be this, "That we have a distinct Perception of *Beauty*, or *Excellence* in the kind Affections of *rational Agents*; whence we are determin'd to admire and love such *Characters* and *Persons*."

## Sect. I.

*W*  
In Actions  
done to our  
selves.

SUPPOSE we reap the same *Advantage* from two Men, one of whom serves us from an *ultimate Desire* of our Happiness, or Good-will toward us ; the other from Views of *Self-Interest*, or by *Constraint* : both are in this Case equally beneficial or *advantageous* to us, and yet we shall have quite different Sentiments of them. We must then certainly have other Perceptions of *moral Actions* than those of *Advantage* : And that Power of receiving these Perceptions may be call'd a MORAL SENSE, since the Definition agrees to it, *viz.* a *Determination of the Mind, to receive any Idea from the Presence of an Object which occurs to us, independent on our Will.* \*

of Evil,  
Moral and  
Natural.

THIS perhaps will be equally evident from our Ideas of *Evil*, done to us designedly by a *rational Agent*. Our Senses of *natural Good* and *Evil* would make us receive, with equal Serenity and Composure, an *Assault*, a *Buffet*, an *Affront* from a *Neighbour*, a *Cheat* from a *Partner*, or *Trustee*, as we would an equal Damage from the Fall of a *Beam*, a *Tile*, or a *Tempest* ; and we should have the same Affections and Sentiments on both occasions. *Villany*, *Treachery*, *Cruelty*, would be as meekly resented as a *Blast*, or *Mildew*, or an *overflowing Stream*. But I

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\* See the Preface, Page 6.

## MORAL GOOD *and* EVIL. 113

fanſy every one is very differently affected Sect. 1.  
on theſe Occaſions, tho there may be equal *natural Evil* in both. Nay, Actions no way detrimental, may occaſion the ſtrongeſt Anger, and Indignation, if they evidence only impotent Hatred, or Contempt. And, on the other hand, the Intervention of *moral Ideas* may prevent our *Condemnation* of the Agent, or bad moral Apprehenſion of that Action, which cauſes to us the greateſt *natural Evil*. Thus the Opinion of *Juſtice* in any Sentence, will prevent all Ideas of *moral Evil* in the Execution, or Hatred toward the *Magiſtrate*, who is the immediate Cauſe of our greateſt Sufferings.

II. IN our Sentiments of Actions which *In Actions* affect our ſelves, there is indeed a Mixture of *toward* the Ideas of *natural* and *moral Good*, which *others.* require ſome Attention to ſeparate them. But when we reflect upon the Actions which affect other Perſons only, we may obſerve the *moral Ideas* unmix'd with thoſe of *natural Good*, or *Evil*. For let it be here obſerv'd, that *theſe Senſes* by which we perceive Pleaſure in natural Objects, whence they are conſtituted *Advantageous*, could never raiſe in us any Deſire of *publick Good*, but only of what was good to our ſelves in particular. Nor could they ever make us approve an Action merely becauſe of its promoting the Happineſs of others. And yet as ſoon as any Action is repreſented to us

## 114      *An INQUIRY concerning*

**Sect. 1.** as flowing from *Love, Humanity, Gratitude, Compassion*, a *Study* of the good of others, and an ultimate Desire of their Happiness, altho it were in the most distant Part of the World, or in some past Age, we feel Joy within us, admire the lovely Action, and praise its Author. And on the contrary, every Action represented as flowing from Ill-will, Desire of the Misery of others without view to any prevalent Good to the Publick, or *Ingratitude*, raises Abhorrence and Aversion.

IT is true indeed, that the Actions we approve in others, are generally imagin'd to tend to the *natural Good* of Mankind, or of some *Parts* of it. But whence this *secret Chain* between *each Person* and Mankind? How is my *Interest* connected with the most distant *Parts* of it? And yet I must admire Actions which shew Good-will toward them, and love the Author. Whence this *Love, Compassion, Indignation* and *Hatred* toward even *feign'd Characters*, in the most distant Ages, and Nations, according as they appear *Kind, Faithful, Compassionate*, or of the *opposite Dispositions*, toward their imaginary Contemporaries? If there is no *moral Sense*, which makes benevolent Actions appear *Beautiful*; if all Approbation be from the *Interest* of the Approver,

*What's*

# MORAL GOOD *and* EVIL. 115

Sect. 1:

*What's HECUBA to us, or we to HECUBA?\** ~~~~~

III. SOME refin'd Explainers of *Self-Love* <sup>Moral</sup> may tell us, "That we approve or condemn <sup>Ideas not from Inte-</sup> *Characters*, according as we apprehend <sup>rest.</sup> "we should have been supported, or injur'd "by them, had we liv'd in their Days." But how obvious is the Answer, if we only observe, that had we no Sense of *moral Good* in *Humanity, Mercy, Faithfulness*, why should ~~not~~ *Self-Love*, and our Sense of *natural Good* engage us always to the victorious Side, and make us admire and love the successful *Tyrant*, or *Traitor*? Why do not we love *SINON*, or *PYRRHUS*, in the *Æneid*? for had we been *GREEKS*, these two would have been very *advantageous Characters*. Why are we affected with the Fortunes of *PRIAMUS*, *POLITES*, *CHOROEBUS* or *ÆNEAS*? Would not the *Parfimony* of a Miser be as advantageous to his Heir, as the *Generosity* of a worthy Man is to his Friend? And cannot we as easily imagine ourselves Heirs to Misers, as the Favourites of Heroes? Why don't we then approve both alike? It is plain we have some *secret Sense* which determines our Approbation without regard to *Self-Interest*; otherwise we should always favour the *fortunate* Side without regard to

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\* *Tragedy of Hamlet.*

## 116     *An INQUIRY concerning*

Sect. 1. *Virtue*, and suppose ourselves engaged with  
 that Party.

SUPPOSE any great Destruction occasion'd by mere *Accident*, without any Design, or Negligence of the Person who casually was the Author of it: This Action might have been as *disadvantageous* to us as design'd *Cruelty*, or *Malice*; but who will say he has the same Idea of both Actions, or Sentiments of the Agents? Thus also an easy, indolent *Simplicity*, which exposes a Man of Wealth as a Prey to others, may be as advantageous a Disposition as the most *prudent Generosity*, to those he converses with; and yet our Sentiments of this latter Temper are far nobler than of the former. “ Whence then this Difference ? ”

AND farther, Let us make a Supposition, which perhaps is not far from Matter of Fact, to try if we cannot approve even *disadvantageous Actions*, and perceive *moral Good* in them. A few ingenious *Artisans*, persecuted in their own Country, flee to ours for Protection; they instruct us in *Manufactures* which support Millions of Poor, increase the Wealth of almost every Person in the *State*, and make us formidable to our *Neighbours*. In a *Nation* not far distant from us, some resolute *Burgomasters*, full of Love to their *Country*, and Compassion toward their *Fellow-Citizens*, oppress in Body and Soul by a *Tyrant*, and  
*Inqui-*

## MORAL GOOD and EVIL. 117

*Inquisition*, with *indefatigable Diligence*, *public Spirit*, and *Courage*, support a tedious perilous War against the *Tyrant*, and form an *industrious Republick*, which rivals us in *Trade*, and almost in *Power*. All the World sees whether the *former* or the *latter* have been more *advantageous* to us: and yet let every Man consult his own Breast, which of the two Characters he has the most agreeable Idea of? whether of the *useful Refugee*, or the *publick-spirited Burgomaster*, by whose Love to his own *Country*, we have often suffer'd in our *Interests*? and I am confident he will find some other Foundation of Esteem than *Advantage*, and will see a just Reason, why the Memory of our *Artisans* is so obscure among us, and yet that of our *Rivals* is immortal.

IV. SOME *Moralists*. who will rather twist *Self-Love* into a thousand Shapes, than allow any other Principle of Approbation than *Interest*, may tell us, "That whatever profits  
 " one Part without detriment to another,  
 " profits *the Whole*, and then some small  
 " Share will redound to *each Individual*;  
 " that those Actions which tend to the *Good*  
 " of *the Whole*, if universally perform'd, would  
 " most effectually secure to *each Individual*  
 " his own Happiness; and that consequent-  
 " ly, we may approve such Actions, from  
 " the Opinion of their tending ultimately to  
 " our own *Advantage*."




# 118      *An INQUIRY concerning*

sect. I.

WE need not trouble these *Gentlemen* to shew by their nice Train of Consequences, and Influences of Actions by way of Precedent in particular Instances, that we in this Age reap any *Advantage* from ORESTES's killing the treacherous ÆGYSTHUS, or from the Actions of CODRUS or DECIUS. Allow their Reasonings to be perfectly good, they only prove, that after long Reflection and Reasoning, we may find out some ground to judge certain Actions advantageous to us, which every Man admires as soon as he hears of them; and that too under a quite different Conception.


SHOULD any of our Travellers find some old *Grecian Treasure*, the *Miser* who hid it, certainly perform'd an Action more to the Traveller's *Advantage* than CODRUS or ORESTES; for he must have but a small Share of Benefit from their Actions, whose Influence is so dispers'd, and lost in various Ages, and Nations: Surely then this *Miser* must appear to the Traveller a prodigious Hero in *Virtue*! For *Self-Interest* will recommend Men to us only according to the *Good* they do to *our Selves*, and not give us high Ideas of *public Good*, but in proportion to our Share of it. But must a Man have the Reflection of CUMBERLAND or PUFENDORF, to admire *Generosity, Faith, Humanity, Gratitude?*

## MORAL GOOD *and* EVIL. 119

*tude?* Or reason so nicely to apprehend Sect. 1. the *Evil* in *Cruelty*, *Treachery*, *Ingratitude*?  Do not the *former* excite our *Admiration*, and *Love*, and *Study* of Imitation, wherever we see them, almost at first View, without any such Reflection, and the *latter*, our *Contempt*, and *Abhorrence*? Unhappy would it be for *Mankind*, if a *Sense* of *Virtue* was of as narrow an Extent, as a Capacity for such *Metaphysics*.


V. THIS *moral Sense*, either of our *own* <sup>Our Moral</sup> Actions, or of those of *others*, has this in <sup>Sense cannot be</sup> common with our other Senses, that how-<sup>brib'd.</sup> ever our Desire of *Virtue* may be counterbalanc'd by *Interest*, our Sentiment or Perception of its *Beauty* cannot; as it certainly might be, if the only Ground of our Approbation were Views of *Advantage*. Let us consider this both as to our *own* Actions and those of *others*.

A COVETOUS *Man* shall dislike any <sup>In judging</sup> Branch of Trade, how useful soever it may <sup>of our own</sup> be to the Publick, if there is no Gain for <sup>Actions.</sup> himself in it; here is an Aversion from *Interest*. Propose a sufficient Premium, and he shall be the first who sets about it, with full Satisfaction in his own Conduct. Now is it the same way with our *Sense* of *moral Actions*? Should any one advise us to wrong a *Minor*, or *Orphan*, or to do an ungrateful Action toward a *Benefactor*;

Sect. I. we at first View abhor it: Assure us that  it will be very *advantageous* to us, propose even a *Reward*; our *Sense* of the Action is not alter'd. It is true, these Motives may make us undertake it; but they have no more Influence upon us to make us approve it, than a Physician's Advice has to make a nauseous Potion pleasant to the Taste, when we perhaps force ourselves to take it for the Recovery of Health.

HAD we no Notion of Actions, beside our Opinion of their *Advantage*, or *Disadvantage*, could we ever choose an Action as *Advantageous*, which we are conscious is still *Evil*? as it too often happens in human Affairs. Where would be the need of such *bb B ribes* to prevail with Men to abandon the Interests of a ruin'd Party, or of *Tortures* to force out the Secrets of their Friends? Is it so hard to convince Mens Understandings, if that be the only Faculty we have to do with, that it is probably more advantageous to secure present Gain, and avoid present Evils, by joining with the prevalent Party, than to wait for the remote Possibility of future Good, upon a Revolution often improbable, and sometimes unexpected? And when Men are over-persuaded by *Advantage*, do they always approve their own Conduct? Nay, how often is their remaining Life odious, and shameful, in their *own Sense* of it, as well as in that  
that

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that of *others*, to whom the base Action was Sect. 1.  
profitable ? 

IF any one becomes satisfy'd with his own Conduct in such a Case, upon what Ground is it ? How does he please himself, or vindicate his Actions to others ? Never by reflecting upon his *private Advantage*, or alledging this to others as a Vindication ; but by gradually warping into the *moral Principles* of his *new Party* ; for no Party is without them. And thus Men become pleas'd with their Actions under some Appearance of *moral Good*, distinct from *Advantage*.

IT may perhaps be alledg'd, " That in <sup>Our Moral</sup> those Actions of our own which we call <sup>Sense not</sup> *Good*, there is *this* constant *Advantage*, <sup>founded on</sup> *Religion*.  
" superior to all others, which is the Ground  
" of our Approbation, and the Motive to  
" them from *Self-Love*, viz. That we sup-  
" pose the DEITY will *reward* them."  
This will be more fully consider'd \* here-  
after : At present it is enough to observe,  
that many have high Notions of *Honour*,  
*Faith*, *Generosity*, *Justice*, who have scarce  
any Opinions about the DEITY, or any  
Thoughts of *future Rewards* ; and abhor  
any thing which is *Treacherous*, *Cruel*, or  
*Unjust*, without any regard to *future Punish-*  
*ments*.

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\* See Sect. ii. Art. 7.

BUT



BUT farther, tho these *Rewards* and *Punishments* may make my *own* Actions appear *advantageous* to me, yet they would never make me approve, and love *another* Person for the like Actions, whose Merit would not be imputed to me. Those Actions are *advantageous* indeed to the *Agent*; but his *Advantage* is not my *Advantage*: and *Self-Love* could never recommend to me Actions as *advantageous* to others, or make me like the Authors of them on that account.

Our Moral  
Sense of  
the Ac-  
tions of o-  
thers, not  
to be  
brib'd.

THIS is the second thing to be consider'd, "Whether our *Sense* of the *moral* " *Good* or *Evil*, in the Actions of others, " can be over-balance'd, or brib'd by Views " of *Interest*." Now I may indeed easily be capable of wishing, that another would do an Action I abhor as *morally Evil*, if it were very *Advantageous* to me: *Interest* in that Case may overbalance my Desire of *Virtue* in another. But no *Interest* to my *self* will make me approve an Action as *morally Good*, which, without that *Interest* to my *self*, would have appear'd *morally Evil*; if, upon computing its whole Effects, it appears to produce as great a moment of *Good* in the Whole, when it is not beneficial to me, as it did before when it was. In our *Sense* of *moral Good* or *Evil*, our own private Advantage or Loss is

## MORAL GOOD *and* EVIL. 113

is of no more moment, than the Advantage Sect. 1.  
or Loss of a third Person, to make an Ac-  
tion appear *Good* or *Evil*. This Sense there-  
fore cannot be over-balanc'd by *Interest*.  
How ridiculous an Attempt wou'd it be,  
to engage a Man by Rewards or Threat-  
nings into a good Opinion of an Action,  
which was contrary to his *moral Notions*?  
We may procure Diffimulation by such  
means, and that is all.

VI. A LATE witty Author \* says, "That <sup>Not occa-</sup>  
" the Leaders of Mankind do not really ad- <sup>sion'd by</sup>  
" mire such Actions as those of REGU- <sup>Praise.</sup>  
" LUS, or DECIUS, but only observe,  
" that Men of such Dispositions are very  
" useful for the Defence of any State;  
" and therefore by *Panegyricks*, and *Sta-*  
" *tues*, they encourage such Tempers in  
" others, as the most *tractable*, and *useful*."  
Here first let us consider, If a *Traitor*, who  
would sell his own Country to us, may  
not often be as *advantageous* to us, as a  
*Hero* who defends us: And yet we can  
love the Treason, and hate the Traitor. We  
can at the same time praise a *gallant Enemy*,  
who is very *pernicious* to us. Is there no-  
thing in all this but an Opinion of *Advan-*  
*tage*?

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\* See the Fable of the Bees, Page 34, 36. 3d Edition.

Sect. I.



AGAIN, upon this Scheme what could a *Statue* or *Panegyrick* effect? — Men love *Praise* — They will do the Actions which they observe to be *praised* — *Praise*, with Men who have no other Idea of *Good* but *Self-Interest*, is the *Opinion which a Nation or Party have of a Man as useful to them* — REGULUS, or CATO, or DECIUS, had no *Advantage* by the Actions which profited their Country, and therefore they themselves could not admire them, however the Persons who reap'd the *Advantage* might praise such Actions. — REGULUS or CATO could not possibly praise or love another Hero for a *virtuous Action*; for this would not gain them the *Advantage* of *Honour*; and their own Actions they must have look'd upon as the hard Terms on which Honour was to be purchas'd, without any thing amiable in them, which they could contemplate or reflect upon with Pleasure. Nay, what should excite a CATO or a DECIUS to desire Praise, if it is only the cold Opinion of others that they were useful to the State, without any Perception of Excellence in such Conduct? — Now how unlike is this to what the least Observation would teach a Man concerning such Characters?

BUT says \* he, "These wondrous cunning Governors made Men believe, by

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\* See the same Author in the same Place.

“ their *Statues* and *Panegyricks*, that there Sect. 1.  
 “ was *publick Spirit*, and that this was in it  
 “ self *Excellent*; and hence Men are led to  
 “ admire it in others, and to imitate it in  
 “ themselves, forgetting the Pursuit of their  
 “ own *Advantage*.” So easy a matter it  
 seems to him, to quit judging of others  
 by what we feel in ourselves! — for a  
 Person who is wholly *selfish*, to imagine o-  
 thers to be *publick-spirited*! — for one  
 who has no Ideas of *Good* but in his own  
*Advantage*, to be led, by the Persuasions  
 of others, into a Conception of *Goodness*  
 in what is avowedly detrimental to him-  
 self, and profitable to others; nay so in-  
 tirely, as not to approve the Action thorow-  
 ly, but so far as he was conscious that it  
 proceeded from a *disinterested Study* of the  
*Good* of others! — Yet this it seems *Statues*  
 and *Panegyricks* can accomplish!

*Nil intra est oleam, nil extra est in nuce  
 duri! \**

IT is an easy matter for Men to assert any  
 thing in Words; but our own Hearts must  
 decide the Matter, “ Whether some *moral*  
 “ *Actions* do not at first View appear *ami-*  
 “ *able*, even to those who are unconcern’d  
 “ in their Influence? Whether we do not

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\* Hor. Ep. 1. Lib. 2. v. 31.

“ sincere—



Sect. 1. "sincerely approve and love a generous kind  
 ~~~~~" Friend, or Patriot, whose Actions pro-  
 "cure Honour to him only, without any
 "Advantage to our selves?" It is true, that
 the Actions which we approve, are useful to
 Mankind; but not always to the Appro-
 ver. It would perhaps be useful to the
Whole, that all Men agreed in performing
 such Actions; and then every one would
 have his Share of the *Advantage*: But this
 only proves, that *Reason* and *calm Reflection*
 may recommend to us, from *Self-Interest*,
 those Actions, which at first View our *mo-
 ral Sense* determines us to admire, without
 considering this *Interest*. Nay, our *Sense*
 shall operate even where the *Advantage* to
 our selves does not hold. We can approve
 the Justice of a Sentence against our selves:
 A condemn'd *Traitor* may approve the Vi-
 gilance of a CICEERO in discovering Con-
 spiracies, tho it had been for the Traitor's
 Advantage, that there never had been in the
 World any Men of such Sagacity. To say
 that he may still approve such Conduct as
 tending to the *publick Good*, is a Jest from
 one whose only Idea of *Good* is *Self-Inte-
 rest*. Such a Person has no Approbation of
publick Spirit, nor Desire of *publick Good*,
 farther than it tends to his own *Advantage*,
 which it does not at all in the present
 Case.

Sect. I.

VII. IF what is said makes it appear, ^{Nor Custom, Education, &c.} that we have some other *amiable Idea* of Actions than that of *Advantageous* to our selves, we may conclude, "That this Perception of *moral Good* is not deriv'd from "*Custom, Education, Example, or Study.*" These give us no new Ideas: They might make us see *private Advantage* in Actions whose Usefulness did not at first appear; or give us Opinions of some Tendency of Actions to our *Detriment*, by some nice Deductions of Reason, or by a rash Prejudice, when upon the first View of the Action we should have observ'd no such thing: but they never could have made us apprehend Actions as *amiable* or *odious*, without any Consideration of our own *Advantage*.

VIII. IT remains then, "That as the
 " A U T H O R of *Nature* has determin'd us
 " to receive, by our *external Senses*, pleasant or disagreeable Ideas of Objects, according as they are useful or hurtful to
 " our Bodys; and to receive from *uniform Objects* the Pleasures of *Beauty* and *Harmony*, to excite us to the Pursuit of Knowledge, and to reward us for it; or to be
 " an Argument to us of his *Goodness*, as the
 " *Uniformity* it self proves his *Existence*,
 " whether we had a *Sense* of *Beauty* in
 " *Uniformity* or not; in the same manner
 " he has given us a M O R A L S E N S E,
 " to

Sect. i. "to direct our Actions, and to give us still
 ~~~~~ "nobler Pleasures: so that while we are  
 "only intending the Good of others, we  
 "undesignedly promote our own greatest  
 "private Good."

*This Moral Sense does not infer innate Ideas or Propositions.*

WE are not to imagine, that this *moral Sense*, more than the other Senses, supposes any *innate Ideas, Knowledge, or practical Proposition*: We mean by it only a *Determination of our Minds to receive the simple Ideas of Approbation or Condemnation, from Actions observed, antecedent to any Opinions of Advantage or Loss to redound to our selves from them*; even as we are pleas'd with a *regular Form, or an harmonious Composition*, without having any Knowledge of *Mathe-maticks*, or seeing any *Advantage* in that Form, or Composition, different from the immediate Pleasure.

THAT we may discern more distinctly the difference between *moral Perceptions* and others, let us consider, when we taste a pleasant Fruit we are conscious of Pleasure; when another tastes it, we only conclude or form an Opinion that he enjoys Pleasure; and, abstracting from some previous *Good-Will* or *Anger*, his enjoying this Pleasure is to us a matter wholly indifferent, raising no new *Sentiment* or *Affection*. But when we are under the influence of a virtuous Temper, and thereby engaged in  
 virtuous

virtuous Actions, we are not always consci- Sect. 1.  
ous of any Pleasure, nor are we only pursu-  
ing private Pleasures, as will appear hereaf-  
ter : 'tis only by *reflex Acts* upon our Tem-  
per and Conduct that we enjoy the Delights  
of Virtue. When also we judge the Temper  
of another to be virtuous, we do not necessa-  
rily imagine him *then* to enjoy Pleasure, tho  
we know *Reflection* will give it to him : And  
farther, our Apprehension of his virtuous  
Temper raises Sentiments of *Approbation*,  
*Esteem*, or *Admiration*, and the Affection of  
*Good-will* toward him. The Quality ap-  
proved by our moral Sense is conceived to re-  
side in the Person approved, and to be a Per-  
fection and Dignity in him : *Approbation* of  
another's Virtue is not conceived as making  
the Approver happy, or virtuous, or worthy,  
tho 'tis attended with some small Pleasure.  
Virtue is then called *Amiable* or *Lovely*, from  
its raising *Good-will* or *Love* in Spectators to-  
ward the Agent ; and not from the Agent's  
perceiving the virtuous Temper to be ad-  
vantagous to him, or desiring to obtain it  
under that View. A virtuous Temper is  
called *Good* or *Beatifick*, not that it is al-  
ways attended with Pleasure in the Agent ;  
much less that some small Pleasure attends  
the Contemplation of it in the Approver :  
but from this, that every Spectator is per-  
suaded that the *reflex Acts* of the virtuous  
Agent upon his own Temper will give h  
the highest Pleasures. The admired C

~ Sect. 1. lity is conceived as the Perfection of the Agent, and such a one as is distinct from the *Pleasure* either in the Agent or the Approver; tho 'tis a sure Source of Pleasure to the Agent. The Perception of the Approver, tho attended with Pleasure, plainly represents something quite distinct from this Pleasure; even as the Perception of *external Forms* is attended with Pleasure, and yet represents something distinct from this Pleasure. This may prevent many Cavils upon this Subject.

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## S E C T. II.

*Concerning the immediate Motive to  
virtuous Actions.*

THE *Motives* of human Actions, or *Nature*,  
their *immediate Causes*, would be best  
understood after considering the *Passions* and  
*Affections*; but here we shall only con-  
sider the *Springs* of the Actions which we  
call *virtuous*, as far as it is necessary to  
settle the general Foundation of the *Mo-  
ral Sense*.

I. EVERY Action, which we apprehend *Affections,*  
as either *morally good* or *evil*, is always *the Motives*  
suppos'd to flow from some *Affection* to-  
ward sensitive Natures; and whatever we  
call *Virtue* or *Vice*, is either some such *Af-  
fection*, or some *Action* consequent upon it;  
Or it may perhaps be enough to make  
an Action, or Omission, appear *vitious*, if  
it argues the Want of such Affection to-  
ward rational Agents, as we expect in Cha-  
racters counted *morally good*. All the Ac-  
tions counted *religious* in any Country, are  
suppos'd, by those who count them so, to  
flow from some Affections toward the DEITY;  
and whatever we call *social Virtue*, we still  
sup-

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Sect. 2. suppose to flow from Affections toward our  
 *Fellow-Creatures*: for in this all seem to agree, "That external Motions, when accompany'd with no Affections toward G o d or *Man*, or evidencing no Want of the *expected* Affections toward either, can have no *moral Good* or *Evil* in them."

Ask, for instance, the most *abstemious Hermit*, if *Temperance* of it self would be *morally good*, supposing it shew'd no Obedience toward the D E I T Y, made us no fitter for Devotion, or the Service of Mankind, or the Search after Truth, than *Luxury*; and he will easily grant, that it would be no *moral Good*, tho' still it might be *naturally good* or *advantageous* to Health: And mere *Courage*, or Contempt of Danger, if we conceive it to have no regard to the Defence of the Innocent, or repairing of Wrongs, or Self-Interest, wou'd only entitle its Possessor to *Bedlam*. When such sort of Courage is sometimes admir'd, it is upon some secret Apprehension of a good Intention in the use of it, or as a natural Ability capable of an useful Application. *Prudence*, if it was only employ'd in promoting *private Interest*, is never imagin'd to be a *Virtue*: and *Justice*, or observing a strict Equality, if it has no regard to the *Good* of *Mankind*, the Preservation of *Rights*, and securing *Peace*, is a *Quality* properer for its ordinary *Gest-*  

2

*men,*

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men, a Beam and Scales, than for a *ratio-Sect. 2.*  
*nal Agent.* So that these four Qualities, commonly call'd *Cardinal Virtues*, obtain that Name, because they are Dispositions universally necessary to promote *publick Good*, and denote *Affections* toward *rational Agents*; otherwise there would appear no *Virtue* in them.

II. Now if it can be made appear, that *Affections*, none of these *Affections* which we approve *disinterested* as *virtuous*, are either *Self-love*, or Desire of *private Interest*; since all *Virtue* is either some such *Affections*, or *Actions* consequent upon them; it must necessarily follow, "That *Virtue* springs from some other " *Affection* than *Self-Love*, or desire of *private Advantage*. And where *Self-Interest* " excites to the same *Action*, the *Appro-* " *bation* is given only to the *disinterested* " *Principle*."

THE *Affections* which are of most Im- *Love of* portance in *Morals*, are commonly included *Compla-* under the names LOVE and HATRED. *cence, and* Now in discoursing of *Love*, we need not *Displacence,* be caution'd not to include that *Love* between the *Sexes*, which, when no other *Affections* accompany it, is only Desire of *Pleasure*, and is never counted a *Virtue*. *Love* toward *rational Agents*, is subdivided into *Love* of *Complacence* or *Esteem*, and *Love* of *Benevolence*: And *Hatred* is subdivided



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Señ. 2. vided into *Hatred of Displience* or *Contempt*, and *Hatred of Malice*. *Complacence* denotes *Approbation of any Person by our Moral Sense*; and is rather a Perception than an Affection; tho the Affection of Good-will is ordinarily subsequent to it. *Benevolence* is the desire of the Happiness of another. Their opposites are called *Dislike* and *Malice*. Concerning each of these separately we shall consider, "Whether they can be influenc'd by Motives of *Self-Interest*."

*Are intirely disinterested.*

*COMPLACENCE, Esteem, or Good-liking*, at first view appears to be *disinterested*, and so *Displience* or *Dislike*; and are intirely excited by some *moral Qualities*, *Good* or *Evil*, apprehended to be in the Objects; which *Qualities* the very *Frame* of our *Nature* determines us to approve or disapprove, according to the *moral Sense* \* above explain'd. Propose to a Man all the Rewards in the World, or threaten all the Punishments, to engage him to *Esteem* and *Complacence* toward a Person intirely *unknown*, or if known, apprehended to be *cruel, treacherous, ungrateful*; you may procure external *Obsequiousness*, or good Offices, or *Disimulation*; but *real Esteem* no Price can purchase. And the same is obvious as to *Contempt*, which no

\* See *Señ. i.*

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Motive of *Advantage* can prevent. On the Sect. 2. contrary, represent a Character as *generous, kind, faithful, humane*, tho in the most distant Parts of the World, and we cannot avoid *Esteem*, and *Complacence*. A *Bribe* may possibly make us attempt to ruin such a Man, or some strong Motive of *Advantage* may excite us to oppose his Interest; but it can never make us disapprove him, while we retain the same Opinion of his Temper and Intentions. Nay, when we consult our own Hearts, we shall find, that we can scarce ever persuade our selves to attempt any Mischief against such Persons, from any Motive of *Advantage*; nor execute it, without the strongest Reluctance, and Remorse, until we have blinded our selves into a false opinion about his Temper.

III. As to the *Love of Benevolence*, the very Name excludes *Self-Interest*. We never call that Man *benevolent*, who is in fact useful to others, but at the same time only intends his *own Interest*, without any ultimate desire of the *Good of others*. If there be any *Benevolence* at all, it must be *disinterested*; for the most useful Action imaginable, loses all appearance of *Benevolence*, as soon as we discern that it only flowed from *Self-Love*, or *Interest*. Thus, never were any human Actions more *advantageous*, than the Inventions of *Fire*, and *Iron*; but if these were casual, or if the In-

*Benevolence disinterested.*

Se<sup>c</sup>t. 2. *ventor* only intended his *own Interest* in them, there is nothing which can be call'd *Benevolent* in them. Where-ever then *Benevolence* is suppos'd, there it is imagin'd *disinterested*, and design'd for the *Good* of others. To raise *Benevolence*, no more is required than calmly to consider any *sensitive Nature* not pernicious to others. *Gratitude* arises from Benefits conferred from Good-will on our selves or those we love; *Complacence* is a perception of the moral Sense. *Gratitude* includes some *Complacence*, and *Complacence* still raises a stronger Good-will than that we have toward indifferent Characters, where there is no opposition of Interests.

Self-Love  
join'd with  
Benevo-  
lence,

BUT it must be here observ'd, That as all Men have *Self-Love*, as well as *Benevolence*, these two Principles may jointly excite a Man to the same Action; and then they are to be consider'd as two Forces impelling the same Body to Motion; sometimes they conspire, sometimes are indifferent to each other, and sometimes are in some degree opposite. Thus, if a Man have such strong *Benevolence*, as would have produc'd an Action without any Views of *Self-Interest*; that such a Man has also in View *private Advantage*, along with *publick Good*, as the Effect of his Action, does no way diminish the *Benevolence* of the Action, When he would not have produc'd so much  
*publick*

*publick Good*, had it not been for Prospect of Sect. 2. *Self-Interest*, then the Effect of *Self-Love* is to be deducted, and his *Benevolence* is proportion'd to the remainder of *Good*, which pure *Benevolence* would have produc'd. When a Man's *Benevolence* is hurtful to himself, then *Self-Love* is opposite to *Benevolence*, and the *Benevolence* is proportion'd to the Sum of the *Good* produc'd, added to the Resistance of *Self-Love* surmounted by it. In most Cases it is impossible for Men to know how far their Fellows are influenc'd by the one or other of these Principles; but yet the general Truth is sufficiently certain, That this is the way in which the *Benevolence* of Actions is to be computed.

IV. THERE are two ways in which some *Benevo-*  
 may deduce *Benevolence* from *Self-Love*, *lence is*  
 the one supposing that "we voluntarily *disin-*  
 " bring this Affection upon our selves when-  
 " ever we have an Opinion that it will  
 " be for our Interest to *have this Affec-*  
 " tion, either as it may be immediately  
 " pleasant, or may afford pleasant Reflec-  
 " tion afterwards by our Moral Sense, or as  
 " it may tend to procure some external Re-  
 " ward from GOD or Man." The other  
 Scheme alledges no such Power in us of  
 raising Desire or Affection of any kind by  
 our *Choice* or *Volition*; but "supposes our  
 " Minds determined by the Frame of their  
 " Nature to desire whatever is apprehend-  
 " ed

Sect. 2. " ed as the *Means* of any private Happiness; and that the *Observation of the Happiness of other Persons*, in many Cases is made the necessary Occasion of Pleasure to the Observer, as their *Misery* is the Occasion of his Uneasiness: and in consequence of this Connexion, as soon as we have observed it, we begin to desire the Happiness of others as the *Means* of obtaining this Happiness to our selves, which we expect from the Contemplation of others in a happy State. They alledge it to be impossible to desire either the Happiness of another, or any Event whatsoever, without conceiving it as the *Means* of some Happiness or Pleasure to *our selves*; but own at the same time, that Desire is not raised in us directly by any *Volition*, but arises necessarily upon our apprehending any Object or Event to be conducive to our Happiness."

*The first  
contrary  
Opinion  
confuted.*

THAT the former Scheme is not just, may appear from this general Consideration, that "neither Benevolence nor any other Affection or Desire can be directly raised by *Volition*." If they could, then we could be bribed into any Affection whatsoever toward any Object, even the most improper: we might raise *Jealousy*, *Fear*, *Anger*, *Love*, toward any sort of Persons indifferently by an Hire, even as we engage Men to external Actions, or to the  
Dis-

Diffimulation of Passions; but this every Sect. 2. Person will by his own Reflection find to be impossible. The Prospect of any Advantage to arise to us *from having any Affection*, may indeed turn our Attention to those *Qualities* in the Object, which are naturally constituted the necessary *Causes* or *Occasions* of the advantageous Affection; and if we find such Qualities in the Object, the Affection will certainly arise. Thus *indirectly* the Prospect of Advantage may tend to raise any Affection; but if these Qualities be not found or apprehended in the Object, no *Volition* of ours, nor *Desire* will ever raise any Affection in us.

BUT more particularly, *that Desire* of the Good of others, which we approve as virtuous, cannot be alledged to be voluntarily raised from Prospect of any *Pleasure accompanying* the Affection it self: for 'tis plain that our Benevolence is not always accompanied with *Pleasure*, nay 'tis often attended with Pain when the Object is in Distress. Desire in general is rather uneasy than pleasant. 'Tis true, indeed, all the Passions and Affections *justify themselves*; while they continue, (as *Malebranch* expresses it) we generally approve our being thus affected on this Occasion, as an innocent Disposition or a just one, and condemn a Person who would be otherwise affected on the like Occasion. So the *Sorrowful*, the *Angry*, the *Jealous*,

Sect. 2. *Jealous*, the *Compassionate* approve their several Passions on the apprehended Occasion; but we should not therefore conclude that *Sorrow*, *Anger*, *Jealousy* or *Pity* are pleasant, or chosen for their concomitant Pleasure. The Case is plainly thus: The Frame of our Nature on the Occasions which move these Passions, determines us to be thus affected, and to approve our Affection at least as innocent. *Uneasiness* generally attends our Desires of any kind; and this *Sensation* tends to fix our Attention, and to continue the Desire. But the Desire does not terminate upon the removal of the Pain accompanying the Desire, but upon some other Event: the concomitant Pain is what we seldom reflect upon, unless when it is very violent. Nor does any Desire or Affection terminate upon the Pleasure which may accompany the Affection; much less is it raised by an Act of our Will, with a view to obtain this Pleasure.

THE same Reflection will shew that we do not by an Act of our Will raise in our selves that Benevolence which we approve as virtuous, with a view to obtain future Pleasures of *Self-Approbation* by our Moral Sense. Could we raise Affections in this manner, we should be engaged to any Affection by the *Prospect of an Interest* equivalent

quivalent to this of *Self-Approbation*, such Sect. 2. as Wealth or sensual Pleasure, which with many Tempers are more powerful; and yet we universally own that *that* Disposition to do good Offices to others which is raised by these Motives is not virtuous: how can we then imagine that the virtuous Benevolence is brought upon us by a Motive equally *Selfish*?

BUT what will most effectually convince us of the Truth on this Point, is Reflection upon our own Hearts, whether we have not a *Desire* of the Good of others, generally without any Consideration or Intention of obtaining these *pleasant Reflections* on our own Virtue: nay, often this Desire is strongest where we least imagine Virtue, in *natural Affection* toward Offspring, and in Gratitude to a great Benefactor; the *absence* of which is indeed the greatest *Vice*, but the Affections themselves are not esteemed in any considerable degree virtuous. The same Reflection will also convince us, that these Desires or Affections are not produced by *Choice*, with a View to obtain this private Good.

IN like manner, if no *Volition* of ours can directly raise Affections from the former Prospects of Interest, no more can any *Volition* raise them from Prospects of *eternal Rewards*, or to avoid *eternal Punishments*. The former Motives differ from these only



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GRATITUDE toward the DEITY is indeed disinterested, as it will appear hereafter. This Affection therefore may obtain our Approbation, where it excites to Action, tho there were no other Benevolence exciting the Agent. But this Case scarce occurs among Men. But where the *Sanction of the Law* is the only Motive of Action, we could expect no more *Benevolence*, nor no other *Affection*, than those in one forced by the *Law* to be *Curator* to a Person for whom he has not the least Regard. The Agent would so manage as to save himself harmless if he could, but would be under no Concern about the *Success* of his Attempts, or the *Happiness* of the Person whom he served, provided he performed the Task required by Law; nor would any Spectator approve this Conduct.

*The second Opinion confused.* V. THE other Scheme is more plausible: That Benevolence is not raised by any *Volition* upon prospect of Advantage; but that we desire the Happiness of others, as conceiving it necessary to procure some *pleasant Sensations* which we expect to feel upon

upon seeing others happy; and that for like Sect. 2. Reason we have Aversion to their Misery. ~~~~~ This Connection between the Happiness of others and our Pleasure, say they, is chiefly felt among *Friends, Parents and Children*, and eminently virtuous Characters. But this Benevolence flows as directly from *Self-Love* as any other Desire.

To shew that this Scheme is not true in Fact, let us consider that if in our Benevolence we only desired the Happiness of others as the *Means* of this Pleasure to our selves, whence is it that no Man *approves* the desire of the Happiness of others as the means of procuring *Wealth* or *sensual Pleasure* to our selves? If a Person had *wagered* concerning the future Happiness of a Man of such Veracity, that he would sincerely confess whether he were happy or not; would this Wagerer's desire of the Happiness of another, in order to win the Wager, be *approved as virtuous*? If not, wherein does this Desire differ from the former? except that in one case there is one pleasant Sensation expected, and in the other case other Sensations: For by increasing or diminishing the Sum wagered, the Interest in this case may be made either greater or less than that in the other.

REFLECTING on our own Minds again will best discover the Truth. Many have never thought upon this *Connection*: nor do

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Sect. 2. " ed as the *Means* of any private Happi-  
 ness; and that the *Observation of the Hap-  
 pinefs of other Persons*, in many Cases is  
 made the necessary Occasion of Pleasure  
 to the Observer, as their *Misery* is the  
 Occasion of his Uneasiness: and in con-  
 sequence of this Connexion, as soon as we  
 have observed it, we begin to desire the  
 Happiness of others as the *Means* of ob-  
 taining this Happiness to our selves, which  
 we expect from the Contemplation of o-  
 thers in a happy State. They alledge it  
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 Desire is not raised in us directly by any  
*Volition*, but arises necessarily upon our  
 apprehending any Object or Event to be  
 conducive to our Happiness."

*The first  
 contrary  
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THAT the former Scheme is not just, may appear from this general Consideration, that "neither Benevolence nor any other Affection or Desire can be directly raised by *Volition*." If they could, then we could be bribed into any Affection whatsoever toward any Object, even the most improper: we might raise *Jealousy*, *Fear*, *Anger*, *Love*, toward any sort of Persons indifferently by an Hire, even as we engage Men to external Actions, or to the  
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Diffimulation of Passions; but this every Sect. 2. Person will by his own Reflection find to be impossible. The Prospect of any Advantage to arise to us *from having any Affection*, may indeed turn our Attention to those *Qualities* in the Object, which are naturally constituted the necessary *Causes* or *Occasions* of the advantageous Affection; and if we find such *Qualities* in the Object, the Affection will certainly arise. Thus *indirectly* the Prospect of Advantage may tend to raise any Affection; but if these *Qualities* be not found or apprehended in the Object, no *Volition* of ours, nor *Desire* will ever raise any Affection in us.

BUT more particularly, *that Desire* of the Good of others, which we approve as virtuous, cannot be alledged to be voluntarily raised from Prospect of any *Pleasure accompanying* the Affection it self: for 'tis plain that our Benevolence is not always accompanied with *Pleasure*, nay 'tis often attended with Pain when the Object is in Distress. Desire in general is rather uneasy than pleasant. 'Tis true, indeed, all the Passions and Affections *justify themselves*; while they continue, (as *Malebranch* expresses it) we generally approve our being thus affected on this Occasion, as an innocent Disposition or a just one, and condemn a Person who would be otherwise affected on the like Occasion. So the *Sorrowful*, the *Angry*, the *jealous*,

SECT. 2. *Jealous*, the *Compassionate* approve their several Passions on the apprehended Occasion; but we should not therefore conclude that *Sorrow*, *Anger*, *Jealousy* or *Pity* are pleasant, or chosen for their concomitant Pleasure. The Case is plainly thus: The Frame of our Nature on the Occasions which move these Passions, determines us to be thus affected, and to approve our Affection at least as innocent. *Uneasiness* generally attends our Desires of any kind; and this *Sensation* tends to fix our Attention, and to continue the Desire. But the Desire does not terminate upon the removal of the Pain accompanying the Desire, but upon some other Event: the concomitant Pain is what we seldom reflect upon, unless when it is very violent. Nor does any Desire or Affection terminate upon the Pleasure which may accompany the Affection; much less is it raised by an Act of our Will, with a view to obtain this Pleasure.

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## MORAL GOOD *and* EVIL. 143

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Sect. 2. we ordinarily intend the obtaining of any such Pleasure when we do generous Offices. We all often *feel* Delight upon seeing others happy, but during our Pursuit of their Happiness we have no *Intention* of obtaining this Delight. We often feel the Pain of Compassion; but were our sole ultimate Intention or Desire the *freeing our selves* from this Pain, would the Deity offer to us either wholly to blot out all Memory of the Person in Distress, or to take away this Connection, so that we should be easy during the Misery of our Friend on the one hand, or on the other would relieve him from his Misery, we should be as ready to choose the former way as the latter; since either of them would free us from *our Pain*, which upon this Scheme is the *sole End* proposed by the compassionate Person.—Don't we find in our selves that our Desire does not terminate upon the removal of our own Pain? Were this our sole Intention, we would run away, shut our Eyes, or divert our Thoughts from the miserable Object, as the readiest way of removing our Pain: This we seldom do, nay we croud about such Objects, and voluntarily expose our selves to this Pain, unless *calm Reflection* upon our Inability to relieve the Miserable, countermand our Inclination, or some *selfish Affection*, as *Fear of Danger*, over-power it.

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TO make this yet clearer, suppose that the DEITY should declare to a good Man that he should be suddenly *annihilated*, but at the Instant of his Exit it should be left to his Choice whether his Friend, his Children, or his Country should be made happy or miserable for the future, when he himself could have no Sense of either Pleasure or Pain from their State. Pray would he be any more indifferent about their State now, that he neither hoped or feared any thing to himself from it, than he was in any prior Period of his Life? Nay, is it not a pretty common Opinion among us, that after our Decease we know nothing of what befalls those who survive us? How comes it then that we do not lose, at the approach of Death, all Concern for our Families, Friends, or Country? Can there be any Instance given of our desiring any Thing only as the *Means of private Good*, as violently when we know that we shall not enjoy this Good many Minutes, as if we expected the Possession of this Good for many Years? Is this the way we compute the Value of *Annuities*?


How the disinterested Desire of the Good of others should seem inconceivable, 'tis hard to account: perhaps 'tis owing to the Attempts of some great Men to give Definitions of *simple Ideas*.—*Desire*, say they, is *Uneasiness, or uneasy Sensation upon the Absence*

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Sect. 2. *of any Good.*—Whereas Desire is as distinct from *Uneasiness*, as *Volition* is from Sensation. Don't they themselves often speak, of our *desiring to remove Uneasiness*? *Desire* then is different from *Uneasiness*, however a Sense of *Uneasiness* accompanies it, as *Extension* does the Idea of *Colour*, which yet is a very distinct Idea. Now wherein lies the Impossibility of desiring the Happiness of another without conceiving it as the Means of obtaining any thing farther, even as we desire our own Happiness without farther View? If any alledge that we desire our own Happiness as the *Means* of removing the *Uneasiness* we feel in the absence of Happiness, then at least the Desire of *removing our own Uneasiness* is an *ultimate Desire*: and why may we not have other *ultimate Desires*?

“ BUT can any Being be concerned about  
 “ the absence of an Event which gives it no  
 “ *Uneasiness*?” Perhaps superior Natures desire without *uneasy Sensation*. But what if we cannot? We may be uneasy while a desired Event is in suspense, and yet not desire this Event only as the *means* of removing this *Uneasiness*: Nay, if we did not desire the Event without view to this *Uneasiness*, we should never have brought the *Uneasiness* upon our selves by *desiring* it. So likewise we may *feel Delight* upon the Existence of a desired Event, when yet we did not desire the Event only as the *Means* of obtaining this  
 Delight;

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Delight; even as we often receive Delight Sect. 2.  
from Events which we had an Aversion to. 

VI. IF any one should ask, since none of these Motives of Self-Interest excite our Benevolence, but we are in virtuous Actions intending solely the Good of others, to what Purpose serves our *moral Sense*, our *Sense of Pleasure from the Happiness of others*? to what Purpose serves the *wise Order of Nature*, by which Virtue is even made generally advantageous in this Life? To what End are *eternal Rewards* appointed and revealed? The Answer to these Questions was given partly already: all these Motives may make us desire to have *benevolent Affections*, and consequently turn our *Attention* to those Qualities in Objects which excite them; they may overbalance all apparent *contrary Motives*, and all Temptations to Vice. But farther, I hope it will be still thought an End worthy of the DEITY, to make the virtuous happy, by a wise Constitution of Nature, whether the Virtues were in every Action intending to obtain this Happiness or not. Beneficent Actions tend to the publick Good, it is therefore good and kind to give all possible *additional Motives* to them; and to excite Men, who have some weak Degrees of good *Affection*, to promote the publick Good more vigorously by motives of *Self-Interest*; or even to excite those who have no Virtue at



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Sect. 2. all to external *Acts of Beneficence*, and to restrain them from Vice \*.

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\* LET it be also remembered, that every Consideration suggested in the Gospel, as an additional Motive to beneficent Actions, is not immediately to be looked upon as the proper Motive to Virtue, or what would engage our Approbation of Actions flowing from it alone. We have the Promises of this Life as well as of the next, and yet the former alone was never thought a virtuous Principle. Some Texts are also brought to confute this Scheme of disinterested Affections as the only truly virtuous Principle, such as 1 Corinth. Ch. XV. ver. 32. which imports no more than this, "That if there were no Resurrection, and consequently Christ had not risen, and therefore his Religion only an Imposture, it had been the greatest Folly in the Apostle to have exposed himself to Persecution:" Not that the prospect of a future Reward was the only Motive to Virtue, or that the only Affection of Mind which made the Apostle bear Persecution was hope of Reward.

ANOTHER Text insisted on is, Heb. XI. ver. 6. But this only means, either "that no Man can perform religious Acts acceptably to God who does not believe his Existence and Goodness," which is self-evident: Or it is to be understood of "embracing the true Religion, and adhering to it under the most severe Persecutions, which we may allow no Man could do without hopes of future Reward." Now this does not prove either that our sole, or our strongest Incitement to virtuous Actions is a prospect of Interest, nor even that any Action is approved because it springs from hope of Reward.

HEB. XII. ver. 2. is chiefly urged, but with least ground: if we have it well translated, it only asserts, "that the hope of future Joy was one Incitement to our Saviour in enduring Sufferings," not that this was the principal Spring of his beneficent Actions, or that they were made amiable by arising from it. Nay, this Joy may be understood metonymically, for its Object, viz. the Salvation of Mankind. Not to mention another Translation long ago known to Criticks; some of whom insist that *avti* is seldom used for the final Cause; but means instead of; in this place, as well as in Texts debated with the Socinians; And then this Verse may be thus translated,

"who


FROM the whole it may appear that there is in human Nature a *disinterested ultimate Desire* of the Happiness of others ; and that our *Moral Sense* determines us only to approve Actions as virtuous, which are apprehended to proceed partly at least from such Desire.

VII. As to Malice, *Human Nature* seems scarce capable of *malicious disinterested Hatred*, or a sedate ultimate Desire of the Misery of others, when we imagine them no way pernicious to us, or opposite to our *Interest* : And for that Hatred which makes us oppose *those* whose Interests are opposite to *ours*, it is only the Effect of *Self-Love*, and not of *disinterested Malice*. A sudden Passion may give us wrong Representations of our Fellow-Creatures, and for a little time represent them as *absolutely evil* ; and during this

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“ who instead of that Joy which was ready at hand, or in his power to have enjoyed, as he had from the Beginning, he submitted to the Cross.” Nor is there any thing to confuse this Translation ; save, that some Antithesis between our suffering from Faith in a Reward, and his suffering in like manner, is not kept up so well ; as if it were a necessary Perfection in the Scriptures to abound in such Antitheses. For in this Translation there is good Reasoning, in shewing how our Saviour’s Sufferings are enhanced by his exchanging a state of Joy for them, parallel to Philip II. ver. 6, 7.

WHOEVER would appeal to the general strain of the Christian Exhortations, will find disinterested Love more inculcated, and Motives of Gratitude more frequently suggested than any others.

 Sect. 2. Imagination perhaps we may give some Evidences of *disinterested Malice*: but as soon as we reflect upon *human Nature*, and form just Conceptions, this *unnatural* Passion is allay'd, and only *Self-Love* remains, which may make us, from *Self-Interest*, oppose our Adversarys.

EVERY one at present rejoices in the Destruction of our *Pirates*; and yet let us suppose a Band of such Villains cast in upon some desolate Island, and that we were assur'd some Fate would confine them there perpetually, so that they should disturb Mankind no more. Now let us calmly reflect, that these Persons are capable of Knowledge and Counsel, may be happy, and joyful, or may be involv'd in Misery, Sorrow, and Pain; that they may return to a State of *Love, Humanity, Kindness*, and become *Friends, Citizens, Husbands, Parents*, with all the sweet Sentiments which accompany these Relations: then let us ask our selves, when *Self-Love*, or regard to the Safety of better Men, no longer makes us desire their Destruction, and when we cease to look upon them, under the Ideas suggested by fresh Resentment of Injurys done to us or our Friends, as utterly incapable of any good *moral Quality*; whether we would wish them the Fate of CADMUS's *Army*, by plunging their Swords in each others Breast, or a worse Fate by the most exquisite Tortures;

## MORAL GOOD *and* EVIL. 153

tures ; or rather, that they should recover Sect. 2.  
the ordinary Affections of Men, become *Kind*,   
*Compassionate*, and *Friendly* ; contrive *Laws*,  
*Constitutions*, *Governments*, *Propertys* ; and  
form an honest happy Society, with *Mar-*  
*riages*, and

*Relations dear, and all the Charities*  
*Of Father, Son, and Brother* — \*.

I fancy the latter would be the Wish of every  
Mortal, notwithstanding our present just Ab-  
horrence of them from *Self-Interest*, or *pub-*  
*lick Love*, and Desire of promoting the In-  
terest of our Friends who are expos'd to  
their Fury. Now this plainly evidences,  
that we scarce ever have any *sedate Malice*  
against any Person, or ultimate desire of his  
Misery. Our calm Ill-will is only from Op-  
position of *Interest* ; or if we can entertain  
*sedate Malice*, it must be toward a Character  
apprehended *necessarily* and *unalterably Evil*  
in a *moral Sense* ; such as a sudden Passion  
sometimes represents our Enemies to us: yet  
perhaps no *such Being* occurs to us among  
the Works of a good DEITY.

VIII. HAVING offer'd what may perhaps *other Af-*  
prove, That neither our *Esteem* nor *Benevo-* <sup>*fections*</sup>  
*lence*, is founded on *Self-Love*, or views of <sup>*disinterest-*</sup>  
*Interest* ; let us see “ if some *other Affec-*  
*ed.*

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\* Milt. Par. Lost. B. iv. ver. 756.

Sect. 2. " tions, in which *Virtue* may be plac'd, do  
 ~~~~~ " arise from *Self-Love*;" such as *Fear*, or  
Reverence, arising from an Apprehension of
Goodness, *Power*, and *Justice*. For no body
 apprehends any *Virtue* in *base Dread* and
Servitude toward a *powerful Evil Being* :
 This is indeed the *meanest Selfishness*. Now
 the same Arguments which prove *Esteem* to
 be *disinterested*, will prove this *honourable*
Reverence to be so too ; for it plainly arises
 from an Apprehension of *amiable Qualities* in
 the Person, and *Love* toward him, which
 raises an *Abhorrence* of offending him. Could
 we reverence a *Being* because it was our *In-*
terest to do so, a third Person might bribe us
 into Reverence toward a *Being* neither *Good*,
 nor *Powerful*, which every one sees to be a
 Jest. And this we might shew to be com-
 mon to all other Passions, which have been
 reputed virtuous.

Objections. IX. THERE is one Objection against *dis-*
interested Good-Will, which occurs from con-
 sidering, " That nothing so effectually ex-
 " cites our *Love* toward rational Agents, as
 " their *Beneficence*, and especially toward our
 " selves; whence we are led to imagine, that
 " our Love of Persons, as well as irrational
 " Objects, flows intirely from *Self-Interest*."
 But let us here examine ourselves more nar-
 rowly. Do we only wish well to the *Bene-*
ficent, because it is our *Interest* to do so ? Or
 do we choose to love them, because our *Love*
 is

is the means of procuring their *Bounty*? Sect. 2. If it be so, then we could indifferently love any Character, even to obtain the *Bounty* of a third Person; or we could be brib'd by a third Person to love the greatest Villain heartily, as we may be brib'd to external Offices: Now this is plainly impossible. Nay farther, is not our *Good-will* the Consequent of *Bounty*, and not the Means of procuring it? External Shew, Obsequiousness, and Diffimulation may precede an Opinion of *Beneficence*; but *real Love* always presupposes it, and will necessarily arise even when we expect no more, from consideration of past Benefits.

OR can any one say he only loves the *Beneficent*, as he does a *Field* or *Garden*, because of its *Advantage*? His *Love* then must cease toward one who has ruin'd himself in kind Offices to him, when he can do him no more; as we cease to love an inanimate Object which ceases to be useful, unless a Poetical *Prosopopæia* animate it, and raise an imaginary Gratitude, which is indeed pretty common. *Beneficence* then must increase our Good-will, as it raises *Complacence*, which is still attended with stronger degrees of Benevolence: and hence we love even those who are *beneficent* to others.



IN the Benefits which we receive our selves, we are more fully sensible of their Value, and of the Circumstances of the Action, which are Evidences of a generous Temper in the *Donor*; and from the good Opinion we have of our selves, we are apt to look upon the Kindness as better employ'd, than when it is bestow'd on others, of whom perhaps we have less favourable Sentiments. It is however sufficient to remove the Objection, that *Bounty* from a *Donor* apprehended as *morally evil*, or extorted by *Force*, or conferr'd with some View of *Self-Interest*, will not procure *real Good-will*; nay, it may raise *Indignation*, if we suspect Dissimulation of Love, or a Design to allure us into any thing dishonourable: whereas wisely employ'd *Bounty* is always approv'd, and gains Love to the Author from all who hear of it.

Virtue disinterested.

IF then no *Good-will* toward Persons arises from *Self-Love*, or Views of *Interest*, and all *Virtue* flows from *Good-will*, or some other Affection equally *disinterested*; it remains, "That there must be some other Affection than *Self-Love*, or *Interest*, which excites us to the Actions we call *Virtuous*."

HAD we no other *ultimate Desire* but that of *private Advantage*, we must imagine

gine that every *rational Being* acts only for Sect. 2.
 its own *Advantage*; and however we may call a *beneficent Being* a *good Being*, because it acts for our Advantage, yet upon *this Scheme* we should not be apt to think there is any *beneficent Being* in *Nature*, or a *Being* who acts for the *Good* of others. Particularly, If there is no *Sense* of Excellence in *publick Love*, and promoting the Happiness of others, whence should this Persuasion arise, "That the DEITY will make the *Virtuous* "happy?" Can we prove that it is for the *Advantage* of the DEITY to do so? This I fancy will be look'd upon as very absurd, by many who yet expect Mercy and Beneficence in the DEITY. And if there be such Dispositions in the DEITY, where is the impossibility of some small degree of this *publick Love* in his Creatures? And why must they be suppos'd incapable of acting but from *Self-Love*?

IN short, without acknowledging some other Principle of Action in rational Agents than *Self-Love*, I see no Foundation to expect *Beneficence*, or *Rewards* from *God*, or *Man*, farther than it is the *Interest* of the *Benefactor*; and all Expectation of Benefits from a *Being* whose Interests are independent on us, must be *perfectly ridiculous*. What should engage the DEITY to reward *Virtue*? *Virtue* is commonly suppos'd, upon *this Scheme*, to be only a consulting our
 own

~ Sect. 2. *own Happiness in the most artful way, consistently with the Good of the Whole*; and in *Vice* the same thing is foolishly pursu'd, in a manner which will not so probably succeed, and which is contrary to the *Good of the Whole*. But how is the DEITY concern'd in this *Whole*, if every Agent always acts from *Self-Love*? And what Ground have we, from the Idea of infinite Power and Art to believe the DEITY is good in the *Christian Sense*, that is, *studious of the Good of his Creatures*? Perhaps the *Misery* of his *Creatures* may give him as much *Pleasure*, as their *Happiness*: And who can find fault, or blame such a *Being* to study their *Misery*; for what else should we expect? A *Manichean Evil God*, is a Notion which Men would as readily run into, as that of a *Good one*, if there is no Excellence in *disinterested Love*, and no *Being* acts but for its own *Advantage*; unless we prov'd that the *Happiness of Creatures* was *advantageous* to the DEITY.

The true
Spring of
Virtue.

X. HAVING remov'd these *false Springs* of *virtuous Actions*, let us next establish the *true one*, viz. *some Determination of our Nature to study the Good of others*; or *some Instinct, antecedent to all Reason from Interest, which influences us to the Love of others*; even as the *moral Sense*, * above explain'd, determines us to *approve* the *Actions* which flow

* See Sect. i.

from *this Love* in our selves or others. This Sect. 2. *disinterested Affection*, may appear strange to Men impress'd with Notions of *Self-Love*, as the *sole* Spring of Action, from the Pulpit, the Schools, the Systems, and Conversations regulated by them: but let us consider it in its strongest and simplest Kinds; and when we see the Possibility of it in these Instances, we may easily discover its *universal Extent*.

AN honest *Farmer* will tell you, that he studies the *Preservation* and *Happiness* of his Children, and loves them without any design of Good to himself. But say some of our *Philosophers*, "The Happiness of their Children gives Parents Pleasure, and their Misery gives them Pain; and therefore to obtain the *former*, and avoid the *latter*, they study, from *Self-Love*, the Good of their Children." Suppose several Merchants join'd in Partnership of their whole Effects; one of them is employ'd abroad in managing the Stock of the Company; his Prosperity occasions Gain to all, and his Losses give them Pain from their Share in the Loss: Is this then the *same* Kind of Affection with *that* of Parents to their Children? Is there the *same* tender, personal Regard? I fancy no Parent will say so. In this Case of Merchants there is a plain Conjunction of Interest; but whence the Conjunction of Interest between the *Parent* and *Child*?


Sect. 2. *Child?* Do the Child's *Sensations* give Pleasure or Pain to the Parent? Is the Parent *hungry, thirsty, sick*, when his Children are so? No, but *his* naturally implanted Desire of their Good, and Aversion to their Misery, makes him be affected with Joy or Sorrow from their Pleasures or Pains. This Desire then is antecedent to the Conjunction of Interest, and the Cause of it, not the Effect: it then must be *disinterested*. "No," says another *Sophist*, Children are *Parts* "of our selves, and in loving them we but "love *our selves* in them." A very good Answer! Let us carry it as far as it will go. How are they *Parts* of our selves? Not as a *Leg* or an *Arm*: We are not conscious of their Sensations. "But *their* Bodies were "form'd from *Parts* of *ours*." So is a *Fly*, or a *Maggot* which may breed in any discharg'd Blood or Humour: Very dear Insects surely! There must be something else then which makes Children *Parts* of our selves; and what is this but *that Affection* which NATURE determines us to have toward them? *This Love* makes them *Parts* of our selves, and therefore does not flow from their being so before. This is indeed a good Metaphor; and wherever we find a Determination among several rational Agents to *mutual Love*, let *each Individual* be look'd upon as a *Part* of a great *Whole*, or *System*, and concern himself in the *publick Good* of it.

BUT

BUT a later Author observes, * “ That
 “ *natural Affection* in Parents is *weak*, till
 “ the Children begin to give Evidences of
 “ *Knowledge and Affections.*” Mothers say
 they feel it strong from the very first: and
 yet I could wish for the destruction of his
 Hypothesis, that what he alledges was true;
 as I fancy it is in some measure, tho we may
 find in some Parents an Affection toward
 Idiots. The observing of *Understanding* and
Affections in Children, which make them
 appear *moral Agents*, can increase Love to-
 ward them without prospect of *Interest*;
 for I hope this Increase of Love, is not from
 Prospect of Advantage from the Knowledge
 or Affections of Children, for whom Parents
 are still toiling, and never intend to be re-
 funded their Expences, or recompens’d for
 their Labour, but in Cases of extreme Ne-
 cessity. If then the observing a *moral Capa-*
city can be the occasion of increasing Love
 without *Self-Interest*, even from the *Frame*
 of our *Nature*; pray, may not *this* be a
 Foundation of *weaker* degrees of Love where
 there is no preceding Tie of Parentage, and
 extend it to *all Mankind*?

XI. AND that this is so in fact, will appear *Publick*
 by considering some more distant Attachments. *Affections,*
 If we observe any Neighbours, from whom *natural*

* See the Fable of the Bees, Pag. 68. 3d Ed.


Sect. 2. perhaps we have receiv'd no good Offices,  form'd into *Friendships*, *Familys*, *Partnerships*, and with Honesty and Kindness assisting each other ; pray ask any Mortal if he would not more desire their *Prosperity*, when their Interests are no way inconsistent with his own, than their *Misery*, and *Ruin* ? and you shall find a *Bond of Benevolence* farther extended than a *Family* and *Children*, altho the Ties are not so strong. Again, suppose a Person, for Trade, had left his *native Country*, and with all his Kindred had settled his Fortunes abroad, without any View of returning ; and only imagine he had receiv'd no Injuriys from his Country : ask such a Man, Would he not rather desire the *Prosperity* of his Country ? Or could he, now that his Interests are separated from that of his Nation, as readily wish that it was laid waste by *Tyranny* or a *foreign Power* ? I fancy his Answer would shew us a *Benevolence* extended beyond *Neighbourhoods* or *Acquaintances*. Let a Man of a *compos'd* Temper, out of the hurry of his *private* Affairs, only read of the *Constitution* of a *foreign Country*, even in the *most distant* parts of the Earth, and observe *Art*, *Design*, and a *Study* of *publick Good* in the *Laws* of this Association ; and he shall find his Mind mov'd in their favour ; he shall be *contriving* Rectifications and Amendments in their Constitution, and *regret* any unlucky part of it which may be pernicious to their Interest ;
he

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he shall *bewail* any Disaster which befalls Sect. 2. them, and *accompany* all their Fortunes with the Affections of a Friend. Now this proves *Benevolence* to be in some degree extended to all Mankind, where there is no *interfering* Interest, which from *Self-Love* may obstruct it. And had we any Notions of *rational Agents*, capable of moral Affections, in the *most distant* Planets, our *good Wishes* would still attend them, and we should desire their Happiness. And that all these Affections whether more or less extensive are properly *disinterested*, not even founded on any desire of that Happiness we may expect in seeing their prosperous Condition; may appear from this, that they would continue even at the instant of our Death or intire Destruction, as was already observed, *Art. IV.* of this Section.

XII. HERE we may transiently remark ^{National Love.} the Foundation of what we call *national Love*, or LOVE of one's *native Country*. Whatever Place we have liv'd in for any considerable time, there we have most distinctly remark'd the *various Affections* of *human Nature*; we have known many lovely *Characters*; we remember the *Associations*, *Friendships*, *Familys*, *natural Affections*, and other *human Sentiments*: our *moral Sense* determines us to approve these lovely *Dispositions* where we have most distinctly observ'd them; and our *Benevolence* concerns

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Sect. 3.  us in the Interests of those Persons possess'd of them. When we come to observe the like as distinctly in *another* Country, we begin to acquire a *national Love* toward it also ; nor has our *own* Country any other preference in our Idea, unless it be by an *Association* of the pleasant Ideas of our Youth, with the *Buildings, Fields, and Woods* where we receiv'd them. This may let us see, how *Tyranny, Faction, a Neglect* of Justice, a *Corruption* of Manners, and *any thing* which occasions the Misery of the Subjects, destroys this *national Love*, and the *dear Idea* of a COUNTRY.

The Reason why natural Affections do not always appear. WE ought here to observe, That the only Reason of that *apparent want* of natural Affection among *collateral Relations*, is, that these *natural Inclinations*, in many Cases, are overpower'd by *Self-Love*, where there happens any *Opposition* of Interests ; but where this does not happen, we shall find all Mankind under its Influence, tho with different degrees of Strength, according to the *nearer or more remote* Relations they stand in to each other ; and according as the *natural Affection* of *Benevolence* is join'd with and strengthen'd by *Esteem, Gratitude, Compassion, or other kind Affections* ; or on the contrary, weaken'd by *Displacence, Anger, or Envy*.

S E C T.



S E C T. III.

The Sense of Virtue, and the various Opinions about it, reducible to one general Foundation. The Manner of computing the Morality of Actions.

I. IF we examine all the Actions which *All Virtue* are counted *amiable* any where, and *Benevo-* inquire into the Grounds upon which they *lent.* are *approv'd*, we shall find, that in the Opinion of the Person who approves them, they always appear as BENEVOLENT, or flowing from *Good-will to others*, and a Study of their Happiness, whether the *Approver* be one of the Persons belov'd, or profited, or not; so that all those *kind Affections* which incline us to make others happy, and all Actions suppos'd to flow from *such Affections*, appear *morally good*, if while they are *benevolent* toward some Persons, they be not *per-nicious* to others. Nor shall we find any thing amiable in any Action whatsoever, where there is no *Benevolence* imagin'd; nor in any Disposition, or Capacity, which is not suppos'd applicable to, and design'd for *benevolent* Purposes. Nay, as was before ob-

Sect. 3. serv'd *, the Actions which in fact are exceedingly useful, shall appear void of *moral Beauty*, if we know they proceeded from no kind Intentions toward others; and yet an unsuccessful Attempt of Kindness, or of promoting *publick Good*, shall appear as amiable as the most successful, if it flow'd from as *strong Benevolence*.

Religion.

II. HENCE *those* Affections which would lead us to do good to our Benefactor, shall appear *amiable*, and the *contrary* Affections *odious*, even when our Actions cannot possibly be of any advantage or hurt to him. Thus a *sincere Love* and *Gratitude* toward our Benefactor, a *cheerful Readiness* to do whatever he shall require, how burdensom soever, a *heartly Inclination* to comply with his Intentions, and *Contentment* with the State he has plac'd us in, are the strongest Evidences of *Benevolence* we can shew to such a Person; and therefore they must appear exceedingly *amiable*. And under these is included all the *rational Devotion*, or *Religion* toward a DEITY apprehended as *Good*, which we can possibly perform.

Gratitude. WE may here transiently observe one Circumstance in the *Frame* of our *Nature*, which is wonderfully adapted to promote *Benevolence*, viz. that as a Benefit conferr'd

* See Sect. ii. Art. 3. Par. 1. Art. 9. Par. 2.

necessarily

neceſſarily raiſes *Gratitude* in the Perſon who Sect. 3.
receives it, ſo the Expreſſions of this Grati-
tude, even from the meanest of Mankind,
are *wonderfully delightful* to the Benefactor.
Never were there any Mortals ſo poor, ſo
inconſiderable, whoſe grateful Praise would
not be ſome way delightful ; and by whom
we would not rather chooſe to be lov'd,
than hated, if their Love no way evidenc'd
us to be Partners in their Vices, or concern'd
in their Meaneſs. And thus the *moſt ab-
jeſt Perſon oblig'd* is capable, and inclin'd to
make no ſmall addition to our Happineſs by
his *Love*, and *Gratitude*, when he is utterly
incapable of any other Return, and when we
expect none from him : Thus,

——— *A grateful Mind*
By owing owes not, and ſtill pays, at once
Indebted and diſcharg'd ——— *

As to *external Performances* of Religion,
they are no doubt very various in different
Nations, and Ages ; and *Education* may give
Men Opinions, that certain Actions are plea-
ſing, and others diſpleaſing to the DEITY:
but then wherever any external Rite of Wor-
ſhip is approv'd, there alſo it is look'd upon
to proceed from *Love* toward the DEITY,
or ſome other Affection neceſſarily join'd with
Love, as *Reverence*, *Repentance*, or *Sorrow*

* Par. Loſt, B. iv. l. 55.

Sect. 3. to have offended. So that the general Principle of *Love*, is the Foundation of all the *apparent moral Excellence*, even in the most fantastick Rites of Worship which were ever approv'd. For as to Rites design'd only to appease a *furious Being*, no Mortal, I fancy, apprehends there is any *Virtue*, or *Excellence* in them; but that they are chosen only as the dishonourable Means of avoiding a greater Evil. Now as there are various speculative Opinions about what is acceptable to the DEITY, it necessarily follows, "That, " accordingly, *Practices*, and *Approbation*, " must be *various*; tho all the *moral Goodness* of Actions is still presum'd to flow from " *Love*."

*Social
Virtues.*


III. AGAIN, that we may see how *Benevolence* is the Foundation of all apprehended *Excellence* in *social Virtues*, let us only observe, That amidst the diversity of Sentiments on this Head among various Sects, this is still allow'd to be the way of deciding the Controversy about any disputed Practice, viz. to inquire whether this Conduct, or the contrary, will most effectually promote the *publick Good*. The *Morality* is immediately adjusted, when the natural Tendency, or Influence of the Action upon the *universal natural Good* of *Mankind*, is agreed upon. That which produces more *Good* than *Evil* in the *Whole*, is acknowledg'd *Good*; and what does not, is counted *Evil*. In this Case,

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CASE, we no other way regard the good of Sect. 3. the *Actor*, or that of those who are thus inquiring, than as they make a Part of the great *System*.

IN our late Debates about *Passive Obedience*, and the Right of *Resistance* in Defence of *Privileges*, the Point disputed among Men of Sense was, “ Whether *universal Submission* would probably be attended with “ greater *natural Evils*, than *temporary Insurrections*, when Privileges are invaded; “ and not, Whether what tended in the “ Whole to the *publick natural Good*, was “ also *morally Good*?” And if a *divine Command* was alledg’d in favour of the Doctrine of *Passive Obedience*, this would, no doubt, by its eternal Sanctions cast the balance of *natural Good* to its own side, and determine our Election from *Interest*; and yet our *Sense* of the *moral Good* in *Passive Obedience*, would still be founded upon some Species of *Benevolence*, such as *Gratitude* toward the DEITY, and *Submission* to his Will to whom we are so much oblig’d. But I fancy those, who believe the DEITY to be *Good*, would not rashly alledge such a Command, unless they also asserted, that the thing commanded did tend more to the *universal Good*, than the contrary, either by preventing the external Evils of *Civil War*, or by enuring Men to *Patience*, or some other *Quality* which they apprehended necessary to their everlasting
Happi-

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Sect. 3. Happiness. And were it not so, *Passive*
 *Obedience* might be recommended as an *inglorious Method* of escaping a greater Mis-
chief, but could never have any thing *morally amiable* in it.

BUT let us quit the Disputes of the *Lear-*
ed, on whom, it may be alledg'd, *Custom*
and *Education* have a powerful Influence;
and consider upon what Grounds, in com-
mon Life, Actions are *approv'd* or *condemn'd*,
vindicated or *excus'd*. We are universally
asham'd to say an Action is *just*, because it
tends to my *Advantage*, or to the *Advantage*
of the *Actor*: And we as seldom condemn a
beneficent kind Action, because it is not *ad-*
vantagous to us, or to the *Actor*. *Blame*,
and *Censure*, are founded on a Tendency to
publick Evil, or a Principle of *private Ma-*
lice in the *Agent*, or *Neglect* at least of the
Good of others; on *Inhumanity* of Temper,
or at least such *strong Selfishness* as makes the
Agent careless of the Sufferings of others:
and thus we *blame* and *censure* when the
Action no way affects our selves. All the
moving and persuasive Vindications of Ac-
tions, which may, from some *partial* evil
Tendency, appear *evil*, are taken from this,
that they were necessary to some *greater*
Good which counterbalanc'd the *Evil*:
“ *Severity* toward a few, is *Compassion* to-
ward multitudes.—*Transitory Punishments*
“ are necessary for avoiding more *durable*
“ *Evils*.

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“ *Evils*.—Did not *some* suffer on such Oc-Sect. 3.
 “ cations, there would be *no living* for honest
 “ Men”—and such like. And even when
 an Action cannot be intirely justify’d, yet
 how greatly is the Guilt extenuated, if we
 can alledge; “ That it was only the Effect
 “ of *Inadvertence* without *Malice*, or of *par-*
 “ *tial good Nature, Friendship, Compassion,*
 “ *natural Affection, or Love of a Party?*”
 All these Considerations shew what is the
universal Foundation of our Sense of moral
Good, or Evil, viz. Benevolence toward others
 on the one hand, and *Malice, or even Indo-*
lence, and Unconcernedness about the *apparent*
publick Evil on the other. And let it be here
 observ’d, that we are so far from imagining
 all Men to act only from *Self-Love*, that we
 universally expect in others a Regard for the
Publick; and do not look upon the want of
 this, as barely the absence of *moral Good,*
 or *Virtue*, but even as *positively evil and hate-*
ful.

IV. CONTRARYS may illustrate each *Moral*
 other; let us therefore observe the *general Evil not*
Foundation of our Sense of moral Evil more *always*
 particularly. *Disinterested Malice, or ulti-*
mate Desire of the Misery of others, is the
highest pitch of what we count vitious; and
 every Action appears *evil*, which is imagin’d
 to flow from any degree of *this Affection.*
 Perhaps a *violent Passion* may hurry Men in-
 to it for a few Moments, and our *rash an-*
gry.

~ Sect. 3. *gry Sentiments* of our Enemys, may represent them as having such *odious Dispositions*; but it is very probable, from the Reasons offer'd above *, that there is no such degree of Wickedness in *human Nature*, as, in *cold blood*, to desire the *Misery* of others, when it is conceiv'd no way useful to *our Interests*.

THE Story of NERO and PÆTUS may be alledg'd against this, but perhaps unjustly, even allowing the Fact to be true. NERO was conscious he was hated by those whom the World call'd *good Men*, and that they were dangerous to him; he fancy'd his best Security lay in being terrible, and appearing such on all Occasions, by making others miserable when he pleas'd, to let his Enemys see, that they should have no Security from that Compassion which a NERO would imagine argu'd Weakness. This *unfortunate Gentleman's* Happiness might by some *foolish Courtier* be so related, as to carry a Reproof of the *Tyrant's* unnatural Pursuits, whereby his Passion might be excited to cut off the Person admir'd, and prefer'd before him. Any of these Motives of *apparent Interest* seem more probably to have influenc'd him, than that we should in *him*, and a few others, suppose a Principle of *calm Malice* without *Interest*, of which the rest of *Mankind* seem intirely incapable.

* See Sect. ii. Art. 4.

Sect. 3.

THE Temper of a *Tyrant* seems probably to be a continu'd state of *Anger*, *Hatred*, and *Fear*. To form our Judgment then of his Motives of Action, and those of Men of like Tempers in lower Stations, let us reflect upon the Apprehensions we form of Mankind, when we are under any of those Passions which to the *Tyrant* are *habitual*. When we are under the fresh Impressions of an Injury, we plainly find, that our Minds are wholly fill'd with Apprehensions of the Person who injur'd us, as if he were *absolutely Evil*, and *delighted* in doing Mischief: We overlook the Virtues, which, when calm, we could have observ'd in him: we forget that perhaps he acted from *Self-Love*, and not *Malice*, or, it may be, some *generous* or *kind Intention* toward others. These, probably, are the Opinions which a *Tyrant* constantly forms concerning *Mankind*; and having very much weaken'd all *kind Affections* in himself, however he may pretend to them, he judges of the Tempers of others by his own. And were Men really *such* as he apprehends them, his Treatment of them would not be very unreasonable. We shall generally find our Passions arising suitably to the Apprehensions we form of others: if these be rashly form'd upon some sudden slight Views, it is no wonder if we find Dispositions following upon them, very little suited to the *real State of human Nature*.

THE

Sect. 3.



Ordinary
Springs of
Vice.

THE ordinary Spring of *Vice* then among Men, must be a *mistaken Self-Love*, made so violent, as to overcome *Benevolence*; or *Affections* arising from *false*, and *rashly form'd Opinions* of *Mankind*, which we run into thro' the weakness of our *Benevolence*. When Men, who had good Opinions of each other, happen to have *contrary Interests*, they are apt to have their *good Opinions* of each other *abated*, by imagining a *design'd Opposition* from *Malice*; without this, they can scarcely *bate* one another. Thus two *Candidates* for the same Office with each other *dead*, because that is an ordinary way by which Men make room for each other; but if there remains any Reflection on each other's *Virtue*, as there sometimes may in benevolent Tempers, then their Opposition may be without *Hatred*; and if another better Post, where there is no Competition, were bestow'd on one of them, the other shall rejoice at it.

Self-Love
indifferent.

V. THE Actions which flow solely from *Self-Love*, and yet evidence no want of *Benevolence*, having no hurtful Effects upon others, seem *perfectly indifferent* in a *moral Sense*, and neither raise the *Love* or *Hatred* of the Observer. Our Reason can indeed discover certain *Bounds*, within which we may not only act from *Self-Love*, consistently with the *Good of the Whole*, but every

Mortal's

Mortal's acting thus within these Bounds for Sect. 3. his own *Good*, is absolutely necessary for the *Good* of the *Whole*; and the Want of such *Self-Love* would be *universally pernicious*. Hence, he who pursues his own *private Good*, with an Intention also to concur with that Constitution which tends to the *Good* of the *Whole*; and much more he who promotes his *own Good*, with a direct View of making himself more capable of serving *God*, or doing good to *Mankind*; acts not only *innocently*, but also *honourably*, and *virtuously*: for in both these Cases, *Benevolence* concurs with *Self-Love* to excite him to the Action. And thus a *Neglect* of our *own Good*, may be *morally evil*, and argue a Want of *Benevolence* toward the *Whole*. But when *Self-Love* breaks over the Bounds above-mention'd, and leads us into Actions detrimental to *others*, and to the *whole*; or makes us insensible of the *generous kind Affections*; then it appears *vitious*, and is *disapprov'd*. So also, when upon any small Injurys, or sudden Resentment, or any weak superstitious Suggestions, our *Benevolence* becomes so faint, as to let us entertain odious Conceptions of *Men*, or any Part of them, without just Ground, as if they were *wholly Evil*, or *Malicious*, or as if they were a worse Sort of Beings than they really are; these Conceptions must lead us into *malevolent Affections*, or at least weaken our *good ones*, and make us *really Vitious*.

Sect. 3.

Self-Love
not exclu-
ded by Be-
nevolence.

VI. HERE we must also observe, that every *moral Agent* justly considers himself as a *Part* of this *rational System*, which may be useful to the *Whole*; so that he may be, in part, an Object of his own *Benevolence*. Nay farther, as was hinted above, he may see, that the Preservation of the *System* requires every one to be *innocently solicitous* about himself. Hence he may conclude, that an Action which brings *greater Evil* to the *Agent*, than *Good* to others, however it may evidence *strong Benevolence* or a *virtuous Disposition* in the *Agent*, yet it must be founded upon a mistaken Opinion of its Tendency to *publick Good*, when it has no such Tendency: so that a Man who reason'd justly, and consider'd the *Whole*, would not be led into it, were his *Benevolence* ever so strong; nor would he recommend it to the Practice of others; however he might acknowledge, that the Detriment arising to the *Agent* from a *kind Action*, did evidence a strong Disposition to *Virtue*. Nay farther, if any *Good* was propos'd to the Pursuit of an *Agent*, and he had a *Competitor* in every respect *only equal* to himself; the *highest Benevolence* possible would not lead a wise Man to prefer another to himself, were there no Ties of Gratitude, or some other external Circumstance to move him to yield to his *Competitor*. A Man surely of the *strongest Benevolence*, may just treat himself as he would

do

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do a third Person, who was a Competitor of Sect. 3.
equal Merit with the other; and as his pre-
 ferring one to another, in such a Case,
 would argue no Weakness of *Benevolence*; so,
 no more would he evidence it by preferring
 himself to a Man of only *equal Ability*s.

WHEREVER a Regard to *my self*, tends
 as much to the good of the *Whole*, as Re-
 gard to *another*; or where the *Evil* to my
 self, is equal to the *Good* obtain'd for ano-
 ther; tho by acting, in such Cases, for the
 Good of *another*, I really shew a very amiable
 Disposition; yet by acting in the contrary
 manner, from Regard to *my self*, I evidence
 no evil Disposition, nor any want of the most
 extensive *Benevolence*; since the *Moment* of
 Good to the *Whole* is, in both Cases, exactly
 equal. And let it be here observ'd, that this
 does not supersede the necessity of *Liberality*,
 or *gratuitous Gifts*, altho in such Actions
 the Giver loses what the other receives;
 since the *Moment* of Good to any Person, in
 any given Case, is in a *compound Ratio* of the
Quantity of the Good it self, and the *Indi-
 gence* of the Person. Hence it appears, that
 a Gift may make a much greater *Addition* to
 the happiness of the *Receiver*, than the *Di-
 minution* it occasions in the happiness of the
Giver: And that the most useful and im-
 portant Gifts are those from the *Wealthy* to
 the *Indigent*. Gifts from *Equals* are not use-
 less neither, since they often increase the


Sect. 3. Happiness of both, as they are strong Evidences of *mutual Love*: but Gifts from the *Poor* to the *Wealthy* are really foolish, unless they be only little Expressions of *Gratitude*, which are also fruitful of Joy on both Sides: for these Expressions of *Gratitude* are really delightful and acceptable to the *Wealthy*, if they have any Humanity; and their Acceptance of them is matter of Joy to the poor *Giver*.

IN like manner, when an Action does more harm to the *Agent*, than Good to the *Publick*; the doing it evidences an amiable and truly virtuous Disposition in the *Agent*, tho 'tis plain he acts upon a mistaken View of his Duty. But if the private Evil to the *Agent* be so great, as to make him incapable at another time, of promoting a *publick Good* of greater moment than what is attain'd by this Action; the Action may really be Evil, so far as it evidences a prior Neglect of a greater attainable *publick Good* for a smaller one; tho at present this Action also flows from a virtuous Disposition.

Benevolence, how affected by the Qualities of its Object.

VII. THE *moral Beauty*, or *Deformity* of Actions, is not alter'd by the *moral Qualityts* of the Objects, any farther than the *Qualityts* of the Objects increase or diminish the *Benevolence* of the Action, or the *publick Good* intended by it. Thus *Benevolence*

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nevolence toward the *worst* Characters, or the Sect. 3. Study of their *Good*, may be as *amiable* as  any whatsoever; yea often more so than *that* toward the *Good*, since it argues such a strong Degree of *Benevolence* as can surmount the greatest Obstacle, the *moral Evil* in the Object. Hence the *Love* of *unjust Enemies*, is counted among the *highest Virtues*. Yet when our *Benevolence* to the *Evil*, encourages them in their bad Intentions, or makes them more capable of Mischief; this diminishes or destroys the *Beauty* of the Action, or even makes it *evil*, as it betrays a *Neglect* of the *Good* of *others* more valuable; *Benevolence* toward *whom*, would have tended more to the *publick Good*, than *that* toward our *Favourites*: But *Benevolence* toward *evil* Characters, which neither encourages nor enables them to do Mischief, nor diverts our *Benevolence* from Persons more useful, has as much *moral Beauty* as any whatsoever.

VIII. IN comparing the *moral Quality* ^{*Qualities*} of Actions, in order to regulate our *Election* ^{*determining our*} among various Actions propos'd, or ^{*Election*} to find which of them has the greatest *moral Excellency*, we are led by our *moral Sense* of *Virtue* to judge thus; that in *equal Degrees* of Happiness, expected to proceed from the Action, the *Virtue* is in proportion to the *Number* of Persons to whom the Happiness shall extend; (and here the *Dignity*,

Sect. 3. or *moral Importance* of Persons, may compensate Numbers) and in equal Numbers, the *Virtue* is as the *Quantity* of the Happiness, or natural Good; or that the *Virtue* is in a *compound Ratio* of the *Quantity* of Good, and *Number* of Enjoyers. In the same manner, the *moral Evil*, or *Vice*, is as the Degree of Misery, and *Number* of Sufferers; so that, *that Action* is best, which procures the *greatest Happiness* for the *greatest Numbers*; and *that, worst*, which, in like manner, occasions *Misery*.

Consequences, how they affect the Morality of Actions.

AGAIN, when the *Consequences* of Actions are of a *mix'd Nature*, partly *Advantageous*, and partly *Pernicious*; *that Action* is good, whose good Effects preponderate the evil, by being useful to many, and pernicious to few; and *that, Evil*, which is otherwise. Here also the *moral Importance* of Characters, or *Dignity* of Persons may compensate Numbers; as may also the *Degrees* of Happiness or Misery: for to procure an *inconsiderable Good* to many, but an *immense Evil* to few, may be *Evil*; and an *immense Good* to few, may preponderate a *small Evil* to many.

BUT the *Consequences* which affect the *Morality* of Actions, are not only the direct and natural Effects of the Actions themselves; but also all those *Events* which otherwise would not have happen'd. For many Actions which have no immediate or

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natural

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natural *evil Effects*, nay, which actually Sect. 3.
 produce *good Effects*, may be *evil*; if a man
 foresees that the evil Consequences, which
 will probably flow from the *Folly* of others,
 upon his doing of such Actions, are so great
 as to overbalance all the *Good* produc'd by
 those Actions, or all the *Evils* which would
 flow from the Omission of them: And in
 such Cases the *Probability* is to be computed
 on both sides. Thus if an Action of mine
 will probably, thro' the Mistake or Corrup-
 tion of others, be made a *Precedent* in un-
 like Cases, to very evil Actions; or when
 my Action, tho good in it self, will probably
 provoke Men to very evil Actions, upon some
mistaken Notion of their Right; any of these
 Considerations foreseen by me, may make
 such an Action of mine *evil*, whenever the
 Evils which will probably be occasion'd by
 the *Action*, are greater than the Evils occa-
 sion'd by the *Omission*.

AND this is the Reason that many *Laws*
 prohibit Actions in general, even when
 some particular *Instances* of those Actions
 would be very useful; because an universal
Allowance of them, considering the Mistakes
 Men would probably fall into, would be
 more pernicious than an universal *Prohibi-*
tion; nor could there be any more *special*
Boundary fix'd between the right and wrong
 Cases. In such Cases, it is the Duty of
 Persons to comply with the generally useful

Sect. 3. Constitution; or if in some very important Instances, the Violation of the Law would be of less *evil Consequence* than Obedience to it, they must patiently resolve to undergo those Penalties, which the State has, for valuable Ends to the Whole, appointed: and this Disobedience will have nothing criminal in it.

IX. 'TIS here to be observed, that tho every *kind Affection* abstractly considered is approved by our moral Sense, yet all sorts of Affections or Passions which pursue the Good of others are not equally approved, or do not seem in the same degree virtuous. Our *calm Affections*, either private or publick, are plainly distinct from our *particular Passions*; *calm Self-Love* quite distinct from *Hunger, Thirst, Ambition, Lust, or Anger*; so *calm Good-will* toward others is different from *Pity, passionate Love, the parental Affection*, or the Passion of *particular Friends*. Now every kind Passion which is not pernicious to others is indeed approved as virtuous and lovely: And yet a calm Good-will toward the same Persons appears more lovely. So calm Good-will toward a small System is lovely, and preferable to more passionate Attachments; and yet a more extensive calm Benevolence is still more beautiful and virtuous; and the highest Perfection of Virtue is an *universal calm Good-will* toward all sensitive Natures. Hence it is that we condemn particular Attachments when inconsistent with

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with the Interest of great Societies, because Sect. 3. they argue some defect in that more noble Principle which is the Perfection of Virtue *.

X. FROM these Observations, we may *Partial* see what Actions our *moral Sense* would most *Benevolence, how* recommend to our Election, as the most *perfectly virtuous.* *perfectly Virtuous: viz.* such as appear to have the most universal unlimited Tendency to the *greatest and most extensive Happiness* of all the *rational Agents*, to whom our Influence can reach. All *Beneficence*, even toward a *Part*, is amiable, when not inconsistent with the *Good* of the *Whole*: But this is a smaller Degree of *Virtue*, unless our Beneficence be restrain'd by want of Power, and not want of Love to the *Whole*. All strict Attachments to Partys, Sects, Factions, have but an imperfect Species of *Beauty*, even when the *Good* of the *Whole* requires a stricter Attachment to a *Part*, as in *natural Affection*, or *virtuous Friendships*; except when *some Parts* are so eminently useful to the *Whole*, that even *universal Benevolence* does determine us with special Care and Affection to study their Interests. Thus *universal Benevolence* would incline us to a more strong Concern for the Interests of *great and generous Characters* in a high Station, or

* See *Essay on Passions*, Sect. 2. Art. 3. And *Illustrations*, Sect. 6. Art. 4.

Sect. 3. make us more earnestly study the Interests of any *generous Society*, whose whole Constitution was contriv'd to promote *universal Good*. Thus a good Fancy in *Architecture*, would lead a Man, who was not able to bear the Expence of a compleatly regular Building, to choose such a Degree of Ornament as he could keep uniformly thro' the *Whole*, and not move him to make a vain unfinish'd Attempt in *one Part*, of what he foresaw he could not succeed in as to *the Whole*. And the most perfect Rules of *Architecture* condemn an excessive Profusion of Ornament on *one Part*, above the Proportion of *the Whole*; unless *that Part* be some eminent Place of the *Edifice*, such as the *chief Front*, or *publick Entrance*; the adorning of which, would beautify the *Whole* more than an equal Expence of Ornament on any *other Part*.

THIS Constitution of our *Sense*, whereby the *moral Beauty* of Actions, or Dispositions, increases according to the *Number* of Persons to whom the good Effects of them extend; whence also Actions which flow from the *nearer Attachments* of Nature, such as *that* between the *Sexes*, and the *Love* of our *Offspring*, do not appear *so virtuous* as Actions of *equal Moment* of Good towards Persons less attach'd to us; has been chosen by the AUTHOR OF NATURE for this good Reason, "That the more *limited* Instincts tend to
 " produce a smaller moment of Good, be-
 " cause

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“ cause confined to small numbers. Where- Sect. 3.
 “ as the more *extensive calm Instinct* of Good-
 “ will, attended with Power, would have
 “ no bounds in its good Effects, and would
 “ never lead into any Evil, as the particular
 “ Passions may : and hence it is made more
 “ lovely to our *Sense*, that we might be
 “ induced to cultivate and strengthen it ;
 “ and make it check even *kind Passions*, when
 “ they are opposit to a greater Good.”

FROM this primary Idea of *moral Good* Moral Dis-
 in Actions, arises the Idea of *Good* in those positions
 Dispositions, whether *natural* or *acquir'd*, and Abi-
tys.
 which enable us to do good to others ; or
 which are presum'd to be design'd, and ac-
 quir'd or cultivated for that purpose. And
 hence those Abilitys, while nothing appears
 contrary to our Presumption, may increase
 our Approbation of the Possessor of them ;
 but when they are imagin'd to be intended
 for *publick Mischief*, they make us hate him
 the more : Such are a *penetrating Judgment*,
 a *tenacious Memory*, a *quick Invention* ; *Pati-*
ence of Labour, Pain, Hunger, Watching ;
 a *Contempt of Wealth, Rumour, Death*.
 These may be rather call'd *natural Abilitys*,
 than *moral Qualitys*. Now, a Veneration
 for these Qualitys, any farther than they
 are employ'd for the *publick Good*, is foolish,
 and flows from our *moral Sense*, grounded
 upon a false Opinion ; for if we plainly see
 them

Sect. 3. them *maliciously* employ'd, they make the Agent more detestable.

How we
compute
the Mor-
ality of Ac-
tions in
our Sense
of them.

XI. To find a *universal Canon* to compute the *Morality* of any Actions, with all their Circumstances, when we *judge* of the Actions done by our selves, or by others, we must observe the following *Propositions*, or *Axioms*.

1. THE *moral Importance* of any Agent, or the *Quantity* of *publick Good* produc'd by him, is in a *compound Ratio* of his *Benevolence* and *Abilitys*: or (by substituting the initial Letters for the Words, as $M = \text{Moment of Good}$, and $\mu = \text{Moment of Evil}$) $M = B \times A$.

2. IN like manner, the *Moment* of *private Good*, or *Interest* produc'd by any Person to himself, is in a *compound Ratio* of his *Self-Love* and *Abilitys*: or (substituting the initial Letters) $I = S \times A$.

3. WHEN, in comparing the *Virtue* of two Agents, the *Abilitys* are equal; the *Moment* of *publick Good* produc'd by them in like Circumstances, is as the *Benevolence*: or $M = B \times I$.

4. WHEN *Benevolence* in two Agents is equal, and other Circumstances alike; the *Moment* of *publick Good* is as the *Abilitys*: or $M = A \times I$.

5. THE

5. THE *Virtue* then of *Agents*, or their *Benevolence*, is always *directly* as the *Moment* of *Good* produc'd in like *Circumstances*, and *inversely* as their *Abilities* : or $B = \frac{M}{A}$.

6. BUT as the natural Consequences of our Actions are various, some *good* to our selves, and *evil* to the Publick; and others *evil* to our selves, and *good* to the Publick; or either *useful* both to our selves and others, or *pernicious* to both; the entire Spring of good Actions is not always *Benevolence alone*; or of Evil, *Malice alone*; (nay, sedate Malice is rarely found) but in most Actions we must look upon *Self-Love* as another Force, sometimes conspiring with *Benevolence*, and assisting it, when we are excited by Views of *private Interest*, as well as *publick Good*; and sometimes opposing *Benevolence*, when the good Action is any way *difficult* or *painful* in the Performance, or *detrimental* in its Consequences to the *Agent*. In the former Case, $M = B + S \times A = BA + SA$; and therefore $BA = M - SA = M - I$, and $B = \frac{M - I}{A}$. In the latter Case, $M = B - S \times A = BA - SA$; therefore $BA = M + SA = M + I$, and $B = \frac{M + I}{A}$.

THESE

Sect. 3:



THESE *selfish Motives* shall be * hereafter more fully explain'd; here we may in general denote them by the Word *Interest*: which when it concurs with *Benevolence*, in any Action capable of Increase, or Diminution, must produce a greater Quantity of Good, than *Benevolence* alone in the same *Abilitys*; and therefore when the *Moment* of Good, in an Action partly intended for the Good of the *Agent*, is but equal to the *Moment* of Good in the Action of another *Agent*, influenc'd only by *Benevolence*, the former is less *virtuous*; and in this Case the *Interest* must be deducted to find the true Effect of the *Benevolence*, or *Virtue*. In the same manner, when *Interest* is opposite to *Benevolence*, and yet is surmounted by it; this *Interest* must be added to the *Moment*, to increase the *Virtue* of the Action, or the Strength of the *Benevolence*: Or thus, in

advantageous Virtue, $B = \frac{M-I}{A}$. And in *la-*

borious, painful, dangerous or expensive Vir-
tue, $B = \frac{M+I}{A}$. By *Interest*, in this last Case,

is understood all the *Advantage* which the *Agent* might have obtain'd by omitting the Action, which is a *negative Motive* to it; and this, when subtracted, becomes *posi-*
tive.

* Vide Sect. v.

BUT here we must observe, that no *Advantage*, not *intended*, altho casually, or naturally redounding to us from the Action, does at all affect its *Morality* to make it less *amiable*: nor does any *Difficulty* or *Evil* unforeseen, or not resolved upon, make a kind Action more *virtuous*; since in such Cases *Self-Love* neither assists nor opposes *Benevolence*. Nay, *Self-Interest* then only diminishes the *Benevolence*, when without this View of *Interest* the Action would not have been undertaken, or so much *Good* would not have been produc'd by the *Agent*; and it extenuates the *Vice* of an *evil* Action, only when without this *Interest* the Action would not have been done by the *Agent*, or so much *Evil* have been produc'd by him.

THE sixth Axiom only explains the external Marks by which Men must judge, who do not see into each others Hearts; for it may really happen in many Cases, that Men may have *Benevolence* sufficient to surmount any *Difficulty*, and yet they may meet with none at all: And in that Case, it is certain there is as much *Virtue* in the *Agent*, tho he does not give such Proof of it to his Fellow-Creatures, as if he had surmounted *Difficultys* in his kind Actions. And this too must be the Case with the DEITY, to whom nothing is difficult.

SINCE

Sect. 3.

Perfect
Virtue.

SINCE then *Benevolence, or Virtue* in any *Agent*, is as $\frac{M}{A}$, or as $\frac{M+I}{A}$, and no

Being can act above his *natural Ability*; that must be the Perfection of *Virtue* where $M=A$, or when the *Being* acts to the utmost of his Power for the *publick Good*; and hence the Perfection of *Virtue* in this Case,

or $\frac{M}{A}$, is as *Unity*. And this may shew us

the only Foundation for the boasting of the *Stoicks*, "That a Creature suppos'd Immo-
cent, by pursuing *Virtue* with his utmost
Power, may in *Virtue* equal the *Gods*." For in their Case, if [A] or the *Ability* be *Infinite*, unless [M] or the *Good* to be produc'd in the whole, be so too, the *Virtue* is not *absolutely perfect*; and the *Quotient* can never surmount *Unity*.

Moral
Evil, how
computed.


XII. THE same Axioms may be apply'd to compute the *moral Evil* in Actions; that is, calling the Disposition which leads us to *Evil, Hatred*, tho it is oftner only *Self-Love*, with Inadvertence to its Consequences: then,

1st. THE *Moment* of *Evil* produc'd by any *Agent*, is as the *Product* of his *Hatred* into his *Ability*, or $\mu=H \times A$. And,

2^{dly}. IN equal *Abilities*, $\mu=H \times I$.

2

3^{dly},

3dly. WHEN *Hatred* is equal ; $\mu = A \times 1$;  Sect. 3.
And,

4thly, THE Degree of *moral Evil*, or *Vice*, which is equal to the *Hatred* or *Neglect* of *publick Good*, is thus express'd,

$$H = \frac{\mu}{A}$$

5thly. THE Motives of *Interest* may co-operate with *Hatred*, or oppose it the same way as with *Benevalence* ; and then according as *Self-Interest* may partly excite to the Action, and so diminish the *Evil* ; or dissuade from it, and so increase it, the *Malice*

which surmounts it, or $H = \frac{\mu \pm I}{A}$, in like manner as in the Case of *moral Good*.

But we must observe, that not only *Inno-* *Intention,*
cence is expected from all Mortals, but they *Foresight.*
are presum'd from their *Nature*, in some measure inclin'd to *publick Good* ; so that a bare Absence of this Desire is enough to make an *Agent* be reputed *Evil* : Nor is a direct Intention of *publick Evil* necessary to make an Action *evil*, it is enough that it flows from *Self-Love*, with a plain Neglect of the *Good* of others, or an Insensibility of their Misery, which we either *actually* foresee, or have a probable *Presumption* of.

Sect. 3.

IT is true indeed, that *that publick Evil* which I neither certainly foresee, nor have actual Presumptions of, as the Consequence of my Action, does not make my *present Action* Criminal or Odious; even altho I might have foreseen this Evil by a serious Examination of my own Actions; because such Actions do not, at present, evidence either *Malice*, or *want of Benevolence*. But then it is also certain, that my *prior Negligence*, in not examining the Tendency of my Actions, is a plain Evidence of the Want of *that Degree* of good Affections which is necessary to a virtuous Character; and consequently the *Guilt* properly lies in this *Neglect*, rather than in an *Action* which really flows from a *good Intention*. *Human Laws* however, which cannot examine the *Intentions*, or secret Knowledge of the *Agent*, must judge in gross of the Action itself; presupposing all that Knowledge as actually attain'd which we are oblig'd to attain.

IN like manner, no good Effect, which I did not actually foresee and intend, makes my Action *morally Good*; however *Human Laws* or *Governors*, who cannot search into *Mens Intentions*, or know their secret *Designs*, justly reward Actions which tend to the publick Good, altho the Agent was engag'd to those Actions only by *selfish Views*; and

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and consequently had no virtuous Disposition Sect. 3.
influencing him to them. ~~~~~

THE difference in *degree of Guilt* between *Crimes of Ignorance*, when the Ignorance is *Vincible*, and *Faulty*, as to the natural Tendency of the Action; and *Crimes of Malice*, or direct evil Intention; consists in this, that the former, by a *prior Neglect*, argues a want of the due degree of *Benevolence*, or *right Affection*; the latter, evidences direct *evil Affections*, which are vastly more odious.

XIII. FROM Axiom the 5th, we may ^{Morality} form almost a demonstrative Conclusion, ^{distinct} from ^{from In-} "that we have a *Sense of Goodness* and *mo-*
" *ral Beauty* in Actions, distinct from *Ad-*
" *vantage*;" for had we no other Founda-
tion of Approbation of Actions, but the *Advantage* which might arise to us from them, if they were done toward our selves, we should make no Account of the *Abilitys* of the *Agent*, but would barely esteem them according to their *Moment*. The *Abilitys* come in only to shew the Degree of *Benevolence*, which supposes *Benevolence* necessarily *amiable*. Who was ever the better pleas'd with a *barren rocky Farm*, or an *inconvenient House*, by being told that the *poor Farm* gave as great Increase as it could; or that the *House* accommodated its Possessor as well

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Sect. 3. as it could? And yet in our Sentiments
 of Actions, whose *Moment* is very inconsiderable, it shall wonderfully increase the *Beauty* to alledge, "That it was all the
 " *poor Agent* could do for the *Publick*, or
 " his *Friend*."

*Morality
 of Characters.*

XIV. THE *moral Beauty* of *Characters* arises from their Actions, or sincere Intentions of the *publick Good*, according to their Power. We form our Judgment of them according to what appears to be their *fix'd Disposition*, and not according to any *particular Sallys* of *unkind Passions*; altho these abate the *Beauty* of good *Characters*, as the Motions of the *kind Affections* diminish the *Deformity* of the *bad ones*. What then properly constitutes a *virtuous Character*, is not some few accidental Motions of *Compassion*, *natural Affection*, or *Gratitude*; but such a *fix'd Humanity*, or *Desire* of the *publick Good* of all, to whom our Influence can extend, as uniformly excites us to all Acts of *Beneficence*, according to our utmost Prudence and Knowledge of the Interests of others: and a *strong Benevolence* will not fail to make us careful of informing our selves right, concerning the truest Methods of serving the Interests of Mankind. Every Motion indeed of the *kind Affections* appears in some degree *amiable*; but we denominate the *Character* from the *prevailing Principle*.

XV. I KNOW not for what Reason some ^{Instinct} will not allow that to be *Virtue*, which ^{may be the} flows from *Instincts*, or *Passions*; but how ^{spring of} do they help themselves? They say, "*Virtue* arises from *Reason*." What is *Reason* but that *Sagacity* we have in prosecuting any *End*? The ultimate *End* propos'd by the common *Moralists* is the *Happiness* of the *Agent* himself, and this certainly he is determin'd to pursue from *Instinct*. Now may not another *Instinct* toward the *Publick*, or the *Good* of others, be as proper a Principle of *Virtue*, as the *Instinct* toward *private Happiness*? And is there not the same Occasion for the Exercise of our *Reason* in pursuing the *former*, as the *latter*? This is certain, that whereas we behold the *selfish* Actions of others, with *Indifference* at best, we see something *amiable* in every Action which flows from *kind Affections* or *Passions* toward others; if they be conducted by *Prudence*, so as any way to attain their *End*. Our *passionate* Actions, as we shew'd * above, are not always *Self-interested*; since our Intention is not to free our selves from the *Uneasiness* of the *Passion*, but to alter the *State* of the *Object*.

IF it be said, "That Actions from *Instinct*, are not the Effect of *Prudence* and

* See Sect. ii. Art. 8.

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Sect. 3. " *Choice*:" This Objection holds full as strongly against the Actions which flow from *Self-Love*; since the use of our Reason is as requisite, to find the proper Means of promoting *publick Good*, as *private Good*. And as it must be an *Instinct*, or a *Determination previous to Reason*, which makes us pursue *private Good*, as well as *publick Good*, as our *End*; there is the same occasion for *Prudence* and *Choice*, in the Election of proper Means for promoting of either. I see no harm in supposing, " that Men are *naturally* dispos'd to *Virtue*, and not left *merely* *indifferent*, until some prospect of Interest *allures* them to it." Surely, the Supposition of a *benevolent universal Instinct*, would recommend *human Nature*, and its AUTHOR, more to the *Love* of a *good Man*, and leave room enough for the Exercise of our *Reason*, in contriving and settling *Rights, Laws, Constitutions*; in *inventing Arts*, and *practising* them so as to gratify, in the most effectual manner, that *generous Inclination*. And if we must bring in *Self-Love* to make *Virtue rational*, a little Reflection will discover, as shall appear hereafter, that this *Benevolence* is our *greatest Happiness*; and thence we may resolve to cultivate, as much as possible, this *sweet Disposition*, and to despise every *opposite Interest*. Not that we can be *truly Virtuous*, if we intend only to obtain the Pleasure which arises from *Beneficence*,

cence, without the *Love* of *others* : Nay, this ^{Sect. 3.} very Pleasure is founded on our being conscious of *disinterested Love* to *others*, as the *Spring* of our Actions. But *Self-Interest* may be our *Motive* in studying to raise these kind Affections, and to continue in this agreeable State ; tho it cannot be the *sole*, or *principal Motive* of any Action, which to our *moral Sense* appears *Virtuous*.

THE applying a *mathematical Calculation* ^{Heroism,} to *moral Subjects*, will appear perhaps at first ^{in all sta-} *extravagant and wild*; but some Corollarys, which are easily and certainly deduc'd below *, may shew the Conveniency of this Attempt, if it could be farther pursu'd. At present, we shall only draw this one, which seems the most joyful imaginable, even to the lowest rank of Mankind, viz. " That " no external Circumstances of Fortune, no " involuntary Disadvantages, can exclude " any Mortal from the *most heroick Virtue*." For how small soever the *Moment* of *publick Good* be, which any one can accomplish, yet if his *Abilitys* are proportionably small, the *Quotient*, which expresses the Degree of *Virtue*, may be as great as any whatsoever. Thus, not only the *Prince*, the *Statesman*, the *General*, are capable of *true Heroism*, tho these are the chief Characters, whose Fame is diffus'd thro' various Nations and Ages :

* See Sect. vii. Art. 8, 9.

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Sect. 3. but when we find in an *honest Trader*, the
 kind *Friend*, the *faithful prudent Adviser*,
 the *charitable* and *hospitable Neighbour*, the
tender Husband and *affectionate Parent*, the
sedate yet chearful Companion, the *generous*
*Assist*ant of *Merit*, the *cautious Allayer* of
Contention and *Debate*, the *Promoter* of *Love*
 and *good Understanding* among *Acquain-*
tances; if we consider, that these were *all*
 the *good Offices* which his *Station* in the
World gave him an *Opportunity* of perform-
 ing to *Mankind*, we must judge *this Cha-*
*ra*cter really as *amiable*, as those, whose ex-
 ternal *Splendor* dazzles an *injudicious World*
 into an *Opinion*, “ that they are the *only*
Heroes in Virtue.”

S E C T.

S E C T. IV.

All Mankind agree, in this general Foundation of their Approbation of moral Actions. The Grounds of the different Opinions about Morals.

I. **T**O shew how far Mankind agree in *This Moral* that which we have made the *Sense uni-*
versal Foundation of this *moral Sense*, viz. *universal.*
 BENEVOLENCE, we have observ'd already *, that when we are ask'd the Reason of our Approbation of any Action, we perpetually alledge its *Usefulness* to the *Publick*, and not to the *Actor* himself. If we are vindicating a censur'd Action, and maintaining it lawful, we always make this one Article of our Defence, "That it injur'd no body, " or did more *Good* than *Harm*." On the other hand, when we blame any piece of Conduct, we shew it to be *prejudicial* to others, besides the *Actor*; or to evidence at least a *Neglect* of their Interest, when it was in our power to serve them; or when *Gratitude*, *natural Affection*, or some other *dis-*

* See above, *Sett.* iii. *Art.* 3. *Par.* 3.

~ Sect. 4. *interested* Tye should have rais'd in us a Study of their Interest. If we sometimes blame foolish Conduct in others, without any reflection upon its Tendency to *publick Evil*, it is still occasion'd by our *Benevolence*, which makes us concern'd for the Evils befalling the *Agent*, whom we must always look upon as a part of the *System*. We all know how great an Extenuation of Crimes it is, to alledge, "That the poor Man does harm to no body but himself;" and how often this turns Hatred into Pity. And yet if we examine the Matter well, we shall find, that the greatest part of the Actions which are *immediately prejudicial* to our selves, and are often look'd upon as *innocent* toward others, do really tend to the *publick Detriment*, by making us incapable of performing the good Offices we could otherwise have done, and perhaps would have been inclin'd to do. This is the Case of *Intemperance* and *extravagant Luxury*.

Benevolence the sole ground of Approbation.

II. AND farther, we may observe, that no Action of any other Person was ever approv'd by us, but upon some Apprehension, well or ill grounded, of some *really good moral Quality*. If we observe the Sentiments of Men concerning Actions, we shall find, that it is always some *really amiable* and *benevolent Appearance* which engages their Approbation. We may perhaps commit Mistakes, in judging that Actions tend to the publick

publick Good, which do not; or be so stu- Sect. 4.
pidly inadvertent, that while our Attention
is fix'd on some *partial good Effects*, we may
quite over-look many *evil Consequences* which
counter-balance the *Good*. Our *Reason* may
be very deficient in its Office, by giving us
partial Representations of the Tendency of
Actions; but it is still some *apparent Species*
of *Benevolence* which commands our Appro-
bation. And *this Sense*, like our other
Senses, tho counter-acted from Motives of
external Advantage, which are stronger
than it, ceases not to operate, but has
strength enough to make us *uneasy* and *dis-*
satisfy'd with our selves; even as the *Sense* of
Tasting makes us loath, and dislike the nau-
seous Potion which we may force our selves,
from Interest, to swallow.

It is therefore to no purpose to alledge *False Ap-*
here, " That many Actions are really done, *probations.*
" and approv'd, which tend to the *universal*
" *Detriment.*" For the same way, Actions are
often perform'd, and in the mean time ap-
prov'd, which tend to the *Hurt* of the *Actor*.
But as we do not from the *latter*, infer the
Actor to be void of *Self-Love*, or a *Sense* of
Interest; no more should we infer from the
former, that such Men are void of a *Sense* of
Morals, or a desire of *publick Good*. The
matter is plainly this. Men are often mis-
taken in the Tendency of Actions either to
publick, or *private Good*: Nay, sometimes
violent

Sect. 4. *violent Passions*, while they last, will make them approve very bad Actions in a *moral Sense*, and conceive very *pernicious ones* to the *Agent*, to be *advantageous*: But this proves only, "That sometimes there may be some more *violent Motive* to Action, than a *Sense of moral Good*; or that Men, by *Passion*, may become blind even to their own *Interest*."

BUT to prove that Men are void of a *moral Sense*, we should find some Instances of *cruel, malicious Actions*, done, without any *Motive of Interest, real or apparent*; and approved without any opinion of *Tendency to publick Good, or Flowing from Good-will*: We must find a Country where *Murder in cold blood, Tortures, and every thing malicious*, without any *Advantage*, is, if not *approved*, at least look'd upon with *indifference*, and raises *no Aversion* toward the Actors in the unconcern'd Spectators: We must find Men with whom the *Treacherous, Ungrateful, Cruel*, are in the same account with the *Generous, Friendly, Faithful, and Humane*; and who approve the *latter*, no more than the *former*, in all Cases where they are not affected by the Influence of these Dispositions, or when the *natural Good or Evil* befalls other Persons. And it may be question'd, whether the *Universe*, tho' large enough, and stor'd with no inconsiderable variety of Characters, will yield us any Instance, not only

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only of a *Nation*, but even of a *Club*, or a *Sect.* 4.
single Person, who will think all Actions in-
different, but those which regard his *own*
Concerns.

III. FROM what has been said, we may *Diversity*
easily account for the *vast Diversity* of *moral* ^{of Man-}
Principles, in *various Nations*, and *Ages*; ^{ners ac-}
and the Grounds of *this Diversity* are *princi-* ^{counted}
pally these:

Ist. DIFFERENT Opinions of *Happi-* ^{From va-}
ness, or *natural Good*, and of the most ^{rious No-}
effective Means to advance it. Thus in one ^{tions of} *Happi-*
Country, where there prevails a *courageous* ^{ness.}
Disposition, where *Liberty* is counted a *great*
Good, and *War* an *inconsiderable Evil*, all
Insurrections in Defence of Privileges, will
have the Appearance of *moral Good* to our
Sense, because of their appearing *benevolent*;
and yet the *same Sense* of *moral Good* in *Be-*
nevolence, shall in another Country, where
the Spirits of Men are more *abject* and *timo-*
rous, where *Civil War* appears the *greatest*
natural Evil, and *Liberty* no *great Purchase*,
make the same Actions appear *odious*. So
in SPARTA, where, thro' Contempt of
Wealth, the Security of Possessions was not
much regarded, but the thing chiefly desir'd,
as *naturally good* to the *State*, was to abound
in a *hardy shifting Youth*; *Theft*, if dexte-
rously perform'd, was so little odious, that
it receiv'd the Countenance of a Law to give
it Impunity. BUT

Sect. 4.



BUT in these, and all other Instances of the like nature, the Approbation is founded on *Benevolence*, because of some real, or apparent Tendency to the *publick Good*. For we are not to imagine, that *this Sense* should give us, without Observation, Ideas of complex Actions, or of their natural Tendency to *Good* or *Evil*: it only determines us to approve *Benevolence*, whenever it appears in any Action, and to hate *the contrary*. So our *Sense* of *Beauty* does not, without Reflection, Instruction, or Observation, give us Ideas of the *regular Solids, Temples, Cirques, and Theatres*; but determines us to approve and delight in *Uniformity amidst Variety*, wherever we observe it. Let us read the *Preambles* of any Laws we count unjust, or the *Vindications* of any disputed Practice by the *Moralists*, and we shall find no doubt, that Men are often mistaken in computing the Excess of the *natural Good* or *evil Consequences* of certain Actions; but the Ground on which any Action is approv'd, is still some Tendency to the *greater natural Good* of others, apprehended by those who approve it.

Travellers
accounts of
barbarous
Customs.

THE same Reason may remove also the Objections against the *Universality* of *this Sense*, from some Storys of Travellers, concerning *strange Crueltys* practis'd toward the *Aged, or Children*, in certain Countries. If such

such Actions be done in sudden angry Passions, they only prove, that other Motives, or Springs of Action, may overpower *Benevolence* in its *strongest Ties*: and if they really be universally allow'd, look'd upon as innocent, and vindicated; it is certainly under some Appearance of *Benevolence*; such as to secure them from Insults of Enemys, to avoid the Infirmitys of Age, which perhaps appear greater Evils than Death, or to free the vigorous and useful Citizens from the Charge of maintaining them, or the Troubles of Attendance upon them. A love of Pleasure and Ease, may, in the immediate Agents, be stronger in some Instances, than *Gratitude* toward Parents, or *natural Affection* to Children. But that such Nations are continu'd, notwithstanding all the Toil in educating their Young, is still a sufficient Proof of *natural Affection*: For I fancy we are not to imagine any nice Laws in such Places, compelling Parents to a proper Education of some certain number of their Offspring. We know very well that an Appearance of *publick Good*, was the Ground of Laws, equally barbarous, enacted by LYCURGUS and SOLON, of killing the deform'd, or weak, to prevent a burdensome Croud of useles Citizens.

A LATE ingenious Author * has justly observ'd the Absurdity of the *monstrous Taste*,

* *Ld. Shaftesbury*, Vol. i. p. 346, 7, 8, 9, &c.

which

Sect. 4. which has possess'd both the *Readers* and *Writers* of *Travels*. They are sparing enough in Accounts of the *natural Affections*, the *Familys*, *Associations*, *Friendships*, *Clans*, of the *Indians*; and as transiently do they mention their Abhorrence of *Treachery* among themselves; their *Proneness* to mutual Aid, and to the Defence of their several *States*; their Contempt of Death in defence of their Country, or upon points of *Honour*. "These are but *common Storys*. — No need "to travel to the *Indies* for what we see in "*Europe* every Day." The Entertainment therefore in these ingenious Studys consists chiefly in exciting *Horror*, and making Men *Stare*. The ordinary Employment of the Bulk of the *Indians* in support of their Wives and Offspring, or Relations, has nothing of the *Prodigious*. But a *Human Sacrifice*, a Feast upon Enemys Carcases, can raise an Horror and Admiration of the wondrous Barbarity of *Indians*, in Nations no strangers to the *Massacre* at *Paris*, the *Irish Rebellion*, or the Journals of the *Inquisition*. These they behold with religious Veneration; but the *Indian Sacrifices*, flowing from a like Perversion of *Humanity* by *Superstition*, raise the highest Abhorrence and Amazement. What is most surprizing in these Studys, is the wondrous *Credulity* of some Gentlemen, of great Pretensions in other matters to Caution of Assent, for these *marvellous Memoirs* of Monks, Friars, Sea-Captains, Pirates; and

and for the *Historys, Annals, Chronologys*, re-Sect. 4.
 ceiv'd by Oral Tradition, or Hieroglyphicks: ~~~~~

MEN have *Reason* given them, to judge ^{Use of} of the Tendency of their Actions, that ^{Reason in} they may not stupidly follow the first Ap- ^{Morals.}pearance of *publick Good*; but it is still some Appearance of *Good* which they pursue. And it is strange, that *Reason* is universally allow'd to Men, notwithstanding all the stupid ridiculous Opinions receiv'd in many Places; and yet absurd Practices, founded upon those very *Opinions*, shall seem an Argument against any *moral Sense*; altho the bad Conduct is not owing to any Irregularity in the *moral Sense*, but to a wrong *Judgment* or *Opinion*. If putting the *Aged* to death, with all its Consequences, really tends to the *publick Good*, and the *lesser Misery* of the *Aged*, it is no doubt *justifiable*; nay, perhaps the *Aged* choose it, in hopes of a *future State*. If a *deform'd* or *weak Race*, could never, by Ingenuity and Art, make themselves useful to Mankind, but should grow an absolutely unsupportable Burden, so as to involve a whole State in Misery, it is *just* to put them to death. This all allow to be *just*, in the Case of an over-loaded Boat in a Storm. And as for *killing* of their Children, when Parents are sufficiently stock'd, it is perhaps practis'd, and allow'd from *Self-love*; but I can scarce think it passes for

Sect. 4. a good Action any where. If *Wood*, or *Stone*, or *Metal* be DEITIES; have Government, and Power, and have been the *Authors* of *Benefits* to us; it is *morally amiable* to praise and worship them. Or if the true DEITY be pleas'd with Worship before *Statues*, or any other *Symbol* of some more *immediate Presence*, or *Influence*; *Image-Worship* is *virtuous*. If he delights in *Sacrifices*, *Penances*, *Ceremonys*, *Cringsings*; they are all *laudable*. Our *Sense* of *Virtue*, generally leads us exactly enough according to our *Opinions*; and therefore the absurd Practices which prevail in the World, are much better Arguments that Men have no *Reason*, than that they have no *moral Sense* of *Beauty* in Actions.

*Narrow
Systems
pervert the
moral
Sense.*


IV. THE next Ground of *Diversity* in Sentiments, is the *Diversity* of *Systems*, to which Men, from foolish *Opinions*, confine their *Benevolence*. We intimated above *, that it is *regular* and *beautiful* to have *stronger Benevolence*, toward the *morally good* Parts of Mankind, who are *useful* to the *Whole*, than toward the *useless* or *pernicious*. Now if Men receive a *low*, or *base Opinion* of any *Body*, or *Sect* of Men; if they imagine them bent upon the Destruction of the more valuable Parts, or but *useless Burdens* of the Earth; *Benevolence* itself will lead them to

* See Sect. iii. Art. 10, Par. 1.

neglect the Interests of such, and to suppress Sect. 4. them. This is the Reason, why, among Nations who have high Notions of *Virtue*, every Action toward an Enemy may pass for *just*; why ROMANS, and GREEKS, could approve of making those they call'd *Barbarians*, *Slaves*.

A LATE ingenious Author * justly ob- ^{Sects pernicious to} serves, " That the various *Sects*, *Partys*, *Factions*, *Cabals* of Mankind in larger Societys, are all influenc'd by a *publick Spirit*: That some generous Notions of *publick Good*, some strong friendly Dispositions, raise them at first, and excite Men of the same *Faction* or *Cabal* to the most disinterested mutual Succour and Aid: That all the Contentions of the different *Factions*, and even the fiercest Wars against each other; are influenc'd by a sociable *publick Spirit* in a limited System." But certain it is, that Men are little oblig'd to those, who often artfully raise and foment this Party Spirit; or cantonize them into several Sects for the Defense of very trifling Causes. Associations for innocent *Commerce*, or *Manufactures*; Cabals for Defense of *Liberty* against a *Tyrant*; or even lower Clubs for *Pleasantry*, or *Improvement* by Conversation, are very amiable and good. But

* Ld. Shaftesbury's Essay on Wit and Humour, Part iii. Sect. ii. Vol. 1. p. 110.

 Sect. 4. when Mens heads are filled with some trifling Opinions; when designing Men raise in their Minds some unaccountable Notion of *Sanctity*, and *Religion*, in Tenets or Practices, which neither increase our Love to GOD, or our own *Species*; when the several Factions are taught to look upon each other as *Odious*, *Contemptible*, *Profane*, because of their different Tenets, or Opinions; even when these Tenets, whether true or false, are perhaps perfectly useless to the publick Good; when the keenest Passions are rais'd about such Trifles, and Men begin to hate each other for what, of it self, has no Evil in it; and to love the Zealots of their own Sect for what is no way valuable; nay, even for their Fury, Rage, and Malice against opposite Sects; (which is what all Partys commonly call *Zeal*) 'tis then no wonder if our *moral Sense* be much impair'd, and our *natural Notions* of *Good* and *Evil* almost lost; when our *Admiration*, and *Love*, or *Contempt*, and *Hatred*, are thus perverted from their natural Objects.

IF any Mortals are so happy as never to have heard of the *Party-Tenets* of most of our Sects; or if they have heard of them, have either never espous'd any Sect, or all equally; they bid fairest for a truly *natural* and *good* Disposition, because their *Tempers* have never been soured about vain Trifles; nor have they contracted any *Sullenness*, or
Rancour

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Rancour against any Part of their own Kind. Sect. 4:
 If any *Opinions* deserve to be contended for, they are those which give us lovely Ideas of the DEITY, and of our *Fellow-Creatures*: If any *Opinions* deserve Opposition, they are such as raise Scruples in our Minds about the *Goodness* of PROVIDENCE, or represent our *Fellow-Creatures* as *base* and *selfish*, by instilling into us some ill-natur'd, cunning, shreud Insinuations, "That our most generous Actions proceed wholly from *selfish Views*." This wise *Philosophy* of some *Moderns*, after EPICURUS, must be fruitful of nothing but *Discontent*, *Suspicion*, and *Jealousy*; a State infinitely worse than any little transitory *Injurys* to which we might be expos'd by a good-natur'd *Credulity*. But thanks be to the kind AUTHOR of our Nature, that, in spite of such *Opinions*, our *Nature* it self leads us into *Friendship*, *Trust*, and *mutual Confidence*.

WERE we freely conversant with *Robbers*, who shew a *moral Sense* in the equal or proportionable *Division* of their Prey, and in *Faith* to each other, we should find they have their own sublime *moral Ideas* of their Party, as *Generous*, *Courageous*, *Trusty*, nay *Honest* too; and that those we call *Honest* and *Industrious*, are imagin'd by them to be *Mean-spirited*, *Selfish*, *Churlish*, or *Luxurious*; on whom that *Wealth* is ill bestow'd, which therefore they would apply to better

Sect. 4. Uses, to maintain gallanter Men, who have a Right to a Living as well as their Neighbours, who are their profess'd Enemys. Nay, if we observe the Discourse of our profess'd Debauchees, our most dissolute Rakes, we shall find their Vices cloth'd, in their Imaginations, with some amiable Dress of *Liberty, Generosity, just Resentment* against the Contrivers of artful Rules to enslave Men, and rob them of their Pleasures.

P E R H A P S never any Men pursu'd Vice long with Peace of Mind, without some such deluding Imagination of *moral Good**, while they may be still inadvertent to the *barbarous and inhuman Consequences* of their Actions. The Idea of an *ill-natur'd Villain*, is too frightful ever to become familiar to any Mortal. Hence we shall find, that the *basest Actions* are dress'd in some *tolerable Mask*. What others call *Avarice*, appears to the Agent a *prudent Care* of a Family, or Friends; *Fraud, artful Conduct; Malice and Revenge*, a *just Sense* of Honour, and a *Vindication* of our Right in Possessions, or Fame; *Fire and Sword, and Desolation* among Enemys, a *just thorough Defense* of our Country; *Persecution*, a *Zeal* for the Truth, and for the *eternal Happiness* of Men, which *Hereticks* oppose. In all these Instances, Men generally act from a *Sense* of Virtue upon *false Opinions*, and

* See below, Sect. vi. Art. 2. Par. 1.

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mistaken Benevolence; upon *wrong* or *partial* Sect. 4.
Views of *publick Good*, and the means to
 promote it; or upon very *narrow Systems*
 form'd by like *foolish Opinions*. It is not a
Delight in the *Misery* of others, or *Malice*,
 which occasions the horrid Crimes which fill
 our *Histories*; but generally an *injudicious un-*
reasonable Enthusiasm for some kind of *limited*
Virtue.

*Insani sapiens nomen ferat, æquus iniqui,
 Ultra, quam satis est, VIRTUTEM se
 petat ipsam *.*

V. THE last Ground of *Diversity* which *False Op-*
 occurs, are the *false Opinions* of the *Will* or *inions of*
Laws of the DEITY. To obey these we *the divine*
 are determin'd from *Gratitude*, and a *Sense*
 of *Right* imagin'd in the DEITY, to dis-
 pose at pleasure the Fortunes of his Creatures.
 This is so abundantly known to have pro-
 duc'd *Follies*, *Superstitions*, *Murders*, *Devas-*
tations of Kingdoms, from a *Sense* of *Virtue*
 and *Duty*, that it is needless to mention par-
 ticular Instances. Only we may observe,
 " That all those *Follies*, or *Barbaritys*, rather
 " confirm than destroy the Opinion of a *moral*
 " *Sense*;" since the DEITY is believ'd to
 have a *Right* to dispose of his Creatures;
 and *Gratitude* to him, if he be conceiv'd
 good, must move us to Obedience to his Will:

* Hor. Ep. 6. Lib. 1. Ver. 15.

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Sect. 4. if he be not conceiv'd good, *Self-love* may overcome our *moral Sense* of the Action which we undertake to avoid his Fury.

As for the Vices which commonly proceed from *Love* of *Pleasure*, or any *violent Passion*, since generally the *Agent* is soon sensible of their *Evil*, and that sometimes amidst the heat of the Action, they only prove, "That this *moral Sense*, and *Benevolence*, may be overcome by the more importunate Sollicitations of *other Desires*."

Objection
from In-
cest.

VI. BEFORE we leave this Subject, it is necessary to remove one of the strongest Objections against what has been said so often, viz. "That *this Sense* is *natural*, and independent on *Custom* and *Education*." The Objection is this, "That we shall find *some Actions* always attended with the strongest Abhorrence, even at first View, in some whole Nations, in which there appears nothing contrary to *Benevolence*; and that the *same Actions* shall in another Nation be counted *innocent*, or *honourable*. Thus Incest, among *Christians*, is abhorr'd at first appearance as much as *Murder*; even by those who do not know or reflect upon any necessary tendency of it to the detriment of Mankind. Now we generally allow, that what is from *Nature* in one Nation, would be so in all. This Abhorrence

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“horrence therefore cannot be from *Nature*, Sect. 4.
 “since in GREECE, the marrying half
 “Sisters was counted *honourable*; and among
 “the *Persian* MAGI, the marrying of Mo-
 “thers. Say they then, may not all our
 “*Approbation* or *Dislike* of Actions arise the
 “same way from *Custom* and *Education*?”

THE Answer to this may be easily found from what is already said. Had we no *moral Sense natural* to us, we should only look upon *Incest* as hurtful to our selves, and shun it, and never disapprove other *incestuous Persons*, more than we do a *broken Merchant*; so that still this Abhorrence supposes a *Sense of moral Good*. And farther, it is true, that many who abhor *Incest* do not know, or reflect upon the natural tendency of some sorts of *Incest* to the *publick Detriment*; but wherever it is hated, it is apprehended as offensive to the DEITY, and that it exposes the Person concern'd to his just Vengeance. Now it is universally acknowledg'd to be the grossest Ingratitude and Baseness, in any Creature, to counteract the Will of the DEITY, to whom it is under such Obligations. This then is plainly a *moral evil Quality* apprehended in *Incest*, and reducible to the general Foundation of *Malice*, or rather Want of *Benevolence*. Nay farther, where this Opinion, “That *Incest* is offensive to the DEITY,” prevails, *Incest* must have another direct Contrariety to *Benevolence*;

Sect. 4. *lence*; since we must apprehend the *Incestuous*, as exposing an Associate, who should be dear to him by the Ties of *Nature*, to the lowest State of *Misery*, and *Baseness*, *Infamy* and *Punishment*. But in those Countrys where no such Opinion prevails of the DEITY's abhorring or prohibiting *Incest*; if no obvious *natural Evils* attend it, it may be look'd upon as *innocent*. And farther, as Men who have the *Sense* of *Tasting*, may, by *Company* and *Education*, have Prejudices against Meats they never tasted, as *unsavoury*; so may Men who have a *moral Sense*, acquire an Opinion by implicit Faith, of the *moral Evil* of Actions, altho they do not themselves discern in them any tendency to *natural Evil*; imagining that others do: or, by Education, they may have some Ideas associated, which raise an abhorrence without Reason. But without a *moral Sense*, we could receive no Prejudice against Actions, under any other View than as *naturally disadvantageous* to our selves.

*Moral
Sense not
from Edu-
cation.*

VII. THE *Universality* of this *moral Sense*, and that it is antecedent to *Instruction*, may appear from observing the Sentiments of *Children*, upon hearing the Storys with which they are commonly entertain'd as soon as they understand Language. They always passionately interest themselves on that side where *Kindness* and *Humanity* are found; and detest the *Cruel*, the *Covetous*, the

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the *Selfish*, or the *Treacherous*. How strongly Sect. 4.
do we see their Passions of *Joy*, *Sorrow*, *Love*, and *Indignation*, mov'd by these *moral Representations*, even tho there has been no pains taken to give them Ideas of a DEITY, of *Laws*, of a *future State*, or of the more intricate Tendency of the *universal Good* to that of each *Individual* !

SECT.

S E C T. V.

A farther Confirmation that we have practical Dispositions to Virtue implanted in our Nature; with a farther Explication of our Instinct to Benevolence in its various Degrees; with the additional Motives of Interest, viz. Honour, Shame and Pity.

Degrees of Benevolence.

I. **W**E have already endeavour'd to prove, " That there is a *universal Determination to Benevolence in Mankind*, " even toward the most distant parts of the " Species:" But we are not to imagine that this *Benevolence* is equal, or in the same degree toward *all*. There are nearer and stronger Degrees of *Benevolence*, when the *Objects* stand in some nearer relations to our selves, which have obtain'd distinct Names; such as *natural Affection*, and *Gratitude* or when *Benevolence* is increas'd by greater *Esteem*,

Natural Affection,

ONE Species of *natural Affection*, viz, that in *Parents* towards their *Children*, has been

been consider'd already *; we shall only Sect. 5.
observe farther, That there is the same kind of *Affection* among *collateral Relations*, tho in a weaker degree; which is universally observable where no Opposition of *Interest* produces contrary Actions, or counterbalances the Power of this *natural Affection*.

WE may also observe, that as to the *Affection* of *Parents*, it cannot be entirely founded on *Merit* and *Acquaintance*; not only because it is antecedent to all *Acquaintance*, which might occasion *Esteem*; but because it operates where *Acquaintance* would produce *Hatred*, even toward *Children* apprehended to be *vitious*. And this *Affection* is farther confirm'd to be from NATURE, because it is always observ'd to *descend*, and not *ascend* from *Children* to *Parents* mutually. NATURE, who seems sometimes frugal in her Operations, has strongly determin'd *Parents* to the Care of their *Children*, because they universally stand in absolute need of Support from them; but has left it to *Reflection*, and a *Sense* of *Gratitude*, to produce Returns of *Love* in *Children*, toward such *tender kind Benefactors*, who very seldom stand in such absolute need of Support from their Posterity, as their *Children* did from them. Now did *Acquaintance*, or *Merit* produce *natural Affection*, we surely

* See above, Sect. ii. Art. 9. Par. 4, 3.

should

Sect. 5. should find it strongest in *Children*, on whom all the Obligations are laid by a thousand good Offices; which yet is quite contrary to Observation. Nay, this Principle seems not confin'd to *Mankind*, but extends to other *Animals*, where yet we scarcely ever suppose any Ideas of Merit; and is observ'd to continue in them no longer than the Necessity of their Young require. Nor could it be of any service to the Young that it should, since when they are grown up, they can receive little Benefit from the Love of their *Dams*. But as it is otherwise with *rational Agents*, so their *Affections* are of longer continuance, even during their whole lives.

Gratitude. II. BUT nothing will give us a juster Idea of the *wise Order* in which *human Nature* is form'd for *universal Love*, and *mutual good Offices*, than considering *that strong Attraction of Benevolence*, which we call *Gratitude*. Every one knows that *Benevolence* toward our selves makes a much deeper Impression upon us, and raises *Gratitude*, or a *stronger Love* toward the *Benefactor*, than *equal Benevolence* toward a *third Person* *. Now because of the great Numbers of *Mankind*, their distant Habitations, and the Incapacity of any one to be remarkably useful to great Multitudes; that our *Benevolence* might not be quite dif-

* See above, *Sect. ii. Art. 6. Par. 3.*

tracted with a multiplicity of Objects, whose equal Virtues would equally recommend them to our regard; or become useless, by being equally extended to Multitudes at vast distances, whose Interests we could not understand, nor be capable of promoting, having no Intercourse of Offices with them; NATURE has so well ordered it, that as our Attention is more raised by those good Offices which are done to our selves or our Friends, so they cause a stronger sense of Approbation in us, and produce a stronger Benevolence toward the Authors of them. This we call *Gratitude*. And thus a Foundation is laid for *joyful Associations* in all kinds of *Business*, and *virtuous Friendships*.

By *this Constitution* also the *Benefactor* is more encourag'd in his *Benevolence*, and better secur'd of an *increase* of Happiness by *grateful Returns* *, than if his *Virtue* were only to be honour'd by the colder general Sentiments of Persons unconcern'd, who could not know his Necessities, nor how to be profitable to him; especially, when they would all be equally determin'd to love innumerable Multitudes, whose equal Virtues would have the same Pretensions to their Love, were there not an *increase* of Love, according as the Object is more *nearly attach'd* to us, or our *Friends*, by good Offices which affect *our selves*, or *them*.

* See above, *Act. iii. Art. 2. Par. 2.*

Sect. 5.

THIS *universal Benevolence* toward all Men, we may compare to that Principle of *Gravitation*, which perhaps extends to all Bodys in the *Universe*; but, like the *Love of Benevolence*, *increases* as the Distance is diminish'd, and is *strongest* when Bodys come to *touch* each other. Now this *increase of Attraction* upon nearer Approach, is as necessary to the *Frame of the Universe*, as that there should be any *Attraction* at all. For a *general Attraction*, equal in all Distances, would by the Contrariety of such multitudes of equal Forces, put an end to all Regularity of Motion, and perhaps stop it altogether.

THIS *increase of Love* toward the *Benevolent*, according to their *nearer Approaches* to *our selves* by their *Benefits*, is observable in the high degree of *Love*, which *Heroes* and *Lawgivers* universally obtain in their own Countrys, above what they find abroad, even among those who are not insensible of their Virtues; and in all the strong Ties of *Friendship*, *Acquaintance*, *Neighbourhood*, *Partnership*; which are exceedingly necessary to the Order and Happiness of Human Society.

Love of
Honour.

III. FROM considering that strong Determination in our Nature to Gratitude, and Love toward our Benefactors, which was already

already shewn to be *disinterested**; we are Sect. 5.
 easily led to consider *another Determination*
 of our *Minds*, equally *natural* with the *former*, which is to desire and delight in the
good Opinion and *Love* of *others*, even when
 we expect no other *Advantage* from them,
 except what flows from *this Constitution*,
 whereby HONOUR is made an *immediate*
Good. This Desire of *Honour* I would call
 AMBITION, had not *Custom* join'd some
 evil Ideas to that Word, making it denote
 such a *violent desire* of *Honour*, and of *Power*
 also, as will make us stop at no base Means
 to obtain them. On the other hand, we are
 by NATURE subjected to a *grievous Sensa-*
tion of *Misery*, from the unfavourable Opini-
 ons of others concerning us, even when we
 dread no other *Evil* from them. This we
 call SHAME; which in the same manner is
 constituted an *immediate Evil*, as we said
Honour was an *immediate Good*.

Now were there no *moral Sense*, or had
 we no other Idea of Actions but as *advan-*
tageous or *hurtful*, I see no reason why we
 should be *delighted* with *Honour*, or subject-
 ed to the *uneasiness* of *Shame*; or how it
 could ever happen, that a Man, who is se-
 cure from a Punishment for any Action, should
 ever be *uneasy* at its being known to *all the*
World. The *World* may have an Opinion

* See above, Sect. ii. Art. 6.

Sect. 5. should find it strongest in *Children*, on whom all the Obligations are laid by a thousand good Offices; which yet is quite contrary to Observation. Nay, this Principle seems not confin'd to *Mankind*, but extends to other *Animals*, where yet we scarcely ever suppose any Ideas of Merit; and is observ'd to continue in them no longer than the Necessitys of their Young require. Nor could it be of any service to the Young that it should, since when they are grown up, they can receive little Benefit from the Love of their *Dams*. But as it is otherwise with *rational Agents*, so *their Affections* are of longer continuance, even during their whole lives.

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tracted with a multiplicity of Objects, whose equal Virtues would equally recommend them to our regard; or become useless, by being equally extended to Multitudes at vast distances, whose Interests we could not understand, nor be capable of promoting, having no Intercourse of Offices with them; NATURE has so well ordered it, that as our Attention is more raised by those good Offices which are done to our selves or our Friends, so they cause a stronger sense of Approbation in us, and produce a stronger Benevolence toward the Authors of them. This we call *Gratitude*. And thus a Foundation is laid for *joyful Associations* in all kinds of *Business*, and *virtuous Friendships*.

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* See above, *Art. iii. Art. 2. Par. 2.*

Sect. 5. as we said above *, the Pleasure arising from *Reflection* on our *Benevolence* was: but the Person whom we imagine *perfectly virtuous*, acts immediately from the *Love* of others; however these refin'd Interests may be *joint Motives* to him to set about such a Course of Actions, or to cultivate every *kind Inclination*, and to despise every *contrary Interest*, as giving a smaller Happiness than *Reflection* on his own Virtue, and *Consciousness* of the Esteem of others.

SHAME is in the same manner constituted an *immediate Evil*, and influences us the same way to abstain from *moral Evil*: not that any Action or Omission would appear *virtuous*, where the *sole Motive* was Fear of *Shame*.

Opinions
flow from
the Moral
Sense.

V. BUT to inquire farther, how far the Opinions of our Company can raise a Sense of *moral Good* or *Evil*. If any Opinion be universal in any Country, Men of little Reflection will probably embrace it. If an Action be believ'd to be *advantageous* to the *Agent*, we may be led to believe so too, and then *Self-Love* may make us undertake it; or may, the same way, make us shun an Action reputed *pernicious* to the *Agent*. If an Action pass for *advantageous* to the *Publick*, we may believe so too; and what next?

* See Sect. iii. Art. 15. Par. 2.

If we have no *disinterested Benevolence*, what Sect. 5. shall move us to undertake it? "Why, we love *Honour*; and to obtain this Pleasure, we will undertake the Action from *Self-Interest*." Now, is *Honour* only the Opinion of our Country that an Action is *advantageous* to the *Publick*? No: we see no Honour paid to the *useful Treachery* of an Enemy whom we have brib'd to our Side; to *casual undesign'd Services*, or to the most useful Effects of *Compulsion* on Cowards; and yet we see Honour paid to *unsuccessful Attempts* to serve the *Publick* from sincere Love to it. *Honour* then presupposes a *Sense* of something *amiable* besides *Advantage*, viz. a *Sense* of *Excellence* in a *publick Spirit*; and therefore the *first Sense* of *moral Good* must be antecedent to *Honour*; for *Honour* is founded upon it *. The Company we keep may lead us, without examining, to believe that certain Actions tend to the *publick Good*; but that our Company *honours* such Actions, and *loves* the *Agent*, must flow from a *Sense* of *some Excellence* in this *Love* of the *Publick*, and serving its Interests:

"WE therefore, say they again, pretend
 "to *love* the *Publick*, altho we only desire
 "the Pleasure of *Honour*; and we will ap-

* THIS should be considered by those who talk much of Praise, high Opinion, or Value, Esteem, Glory, as things much desired; while yet they allow no moral Sense.

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Sect. 5. “ plaud all who seem to act in that manner, either that we may reap *Advantage* from their Actions, or that others may believe “ we *really love* the *Publick*.” But shall any Man ever be heartily *approved* and *admired*, when we know that *Self-Love* is the only spring of his Actions? No: that is impossible. Or, shall we ever really admire Men who appear to *love* the *Publick*, without a *moral Sense*? No: we could form no Idea of such a Temper; and as for these Pretenders to *publick Love*, we should hate them as Hypocrites, and our Rivals in Fame. Now this is all which could be effected by the Opinions of our Country, even supposing they had a *moral Sense*, provided we had none our selves: They never could make us admire *Virtue*, or *virtuous Characters* in others; but could only give us Opinions of *Advantage*, or *Disadvantage* in Actions, according as they tended to procure to us the Pleasures of *Honour*, or the Pain of *Shame*.

BUT if we suppose that Men have, by NATURE, a *moral Sense* of *Goodness* in Actions, and that they are capable of *disinterested Love*; all is easy. The Opinions of our Company may make us rashly conclude, that certain Actions tend to the universal Detriment, and are *morally Evil*, when perhaps they are not so; and then *our Sense* may determine us to have an Aversion to them, and their Authors; or we may, the same way,
be

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be led into implicit Prejudices in favour of Sect. 5. Actions as *good*; and then our desire of Honour may co-operate with *Benevolence*, to move us to such Actions. But had we no *Sense* of *moral Quality*s in Actions, nor any Conceptions of them, except as *advantageous* or *hurtful*, we never could have *honour'd* or *lov'd Agents* for *publick Love*, or had any regard to their Actions, farther than they affected our selves in particular. We might have form'd the metaphysical Idea of *publick Good*, but we had never desir'd it, farther than it tended to our own *private Interest*, without a Principle of *Benevolence*; nor admir'd and lov'd those who were studious of it, without a *moral Sense*. So far is *Virtue* from being (in the Language of a late * Author) *the Offspring of Flattery, begot upon Pride*; that *Pride*, in the bad meaning of that Word, is *the spurious Brood of Ignorance by our moral Sense*, and *Flattery* only *an Engine, which the Cunning may use to turn this moral Sense in others, to the Purposes of Self-love in the Flatterer*.

VI. To explain what has been said of the ^{Moral} Power of Honour. Suppose a STATE or ^{Sense, not} PRINCE, observing the Money which is ^{from Love} of Honour. drawn out of *England* by *Italian Musicians*, should decree *Honours, Statues, Titles*, for *great Musicians*: This would certainly ex-

* Author of the Fable of the Bees, *Pag. 37. 3d Ed.*

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Sect. 5. cite all who had hopes of Success, to the Study of *Musick*; and all Men would look upon the good Performers as useful Subjects, as well as very entertaining. But would this give all Men a *good Ear*, or make them delight in *Harmony*? Or could it ever make us really love a *Musician*, who study'd nothing but his own Gain, in the same manner we do a *Patriot*, or a *generous Friend*? I doubt not. And yet *Friendship*, without the Assistance of Statues, or Honours, can make Persons appear *exceedingly amiable*.

LET us take another Instance. Suppose *Statues*, and *triumphal Arches* were decreed, as well as a *large Sum* of *Money*, to the Discoverer of the *Longitude*, or any other useful Invention in *Mathematicks*: This would raise a universal Desire of such Knowledge from *Self-Love*; but would Men therefore love a *Mathematician* as they do a *virtuous Man*? Would a *Mathematician* love every Person who had attain'd Perfection in that Knowledge, wherever he observ'd it, altho he knew that it was not accompany'd with any *Love* to *Mankind*, or *Study* of their *Good*, but with *Ill-nature*, *Pride*, *Covetousness*? In short, let us honour other Qualitys by external Shew as much as we please; if we do not discern a *benevolent Intention* in the Application, or presume upon it, we may look upon these Qualitys as useful, enriching, or otherwise advantageous to any one who


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who is possess'd of them ; but they shall ne- Sect. 5:
 ver meet with those endearing Sentiments of *Es-
 teem* and *Love*, which our *Nature* deter-
 mines us to appropriate to *Benevolence*, or
Virtue.

LOVE of *Honour*, and Aversion to *Shame*,
 may often move us to do Actions for which
 others profess to honour us, even tho we
 see no *Good* in them our selves : And *Com-
 pliance* with the Inclinations of others, as it
 evidences Humanity, may procure some
 Love to the *Agent*, from Spectators who see
 no *moral Good* in the Action it self. But
 without some *Sense* of *Good* in the Actions,
 Men shall never be fond of such Actions in
 Solitude, nor ever love any one for Perfec-
 tion in them, or for practising them in Soli-
 tude ; and much less shall they be dissatis-
 fy'd with themselves when they act other-
 wise in Solitude. Now this is the case with
 us, as to *Virtue* ; and therefore we must
 have, by NATURE, a *moral Sense* of it ante-
 cedent to *Honour*.

THIS will shew us with what Judgment
 a late * Author compares the Original of
 our Ideas of *Virtue*, and Approbation of it,
 to *the manner of regulating the Behaviour*
of aukward Children by Commendation. It

* See the Fable of the Bees, Page 38. 3d Ed.

 Sect. 5. shall appear hereafter *, that our Approbation of some *Gestures*, and what we call *Decency* in Motion, depends upon some *moral Ideas* in People of advanc'd Years. But before Children come to observe this Relation, it is only *good Nature*, an *Inclination* to please, and *Love of Praise*, which makes them endeavour to behave as they are desir'd; and not any Perception of *Excellence* in this Behaviour. Hence they are not solicitous about *Gestures* when alone, unless with a View to please when they return to Company; nor do they ever love or approve others for any Perfection of this kind, but rather envy or hate them; till they either discern the Connexion between *Gestures*, and *moral Qualitys*; or reflect on the *good Nature*, which is evidenc'd by such a Compliance with the desire of the Company.

False Honour.


VII. THE considering *Honour* in the manner above explain'd, may shew us the reason, why Men are often *asham'd* for things which are not *vitious*, and *honour'd* for what is not *virtuous*. For, if any Action only appears *vitious* to any Persons or Company, altho it be not so, they will have a bad Idea of the *Agent*; and then he may be *asham'd*, or suffer Uneasiness in being thought *morally Evil*. The same way, those who look upon

* See Sect. vi. Art. 4.

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an Action as *morally good*, will honour the Sect. 5.
Agent; and he may be pleas'd with the Ho-
 nour, altho he does not himself perceive any
moral Good in what has procur'd it.

AGAIN, we shall be *asham'd* of every *Moral In-*
 Evidence of *moral Incapacity*, or Want of *capacity*,
Ability; and with good ground, when this *matter of*
 Want is occasion'd by our own Negligence. *Shame.*
 Nay farther, if any Circumstance be look'd
 upon as *indecent* in any Country, *offensive* to
 others, or *deform'd*; we shall, out of our
 desire of the good Opinions of others, be
asham'd to be found in such Circumstances,
 even when we are sensible that this Indecen-
 cy or Offence is not founded on *Nature*, but
 is merely the Effect of *Custom*. Thus being
 observ'd in those Functions of Nature which
 are counted *indecent* and *offensive*, will make
 us *uneasy*, altho we are sensible that they re-
 ally do not argue any *Vice* or *Weakness*. But
 on the contrary, since *moral Ability*s of any
 kind, upon the general Presumption of a good
 Application, and of having been acquired by
 Virtue, procure the Esteem of others, we
 shall value our selves upon them, or grow
 proud of them, and be *asham'd* of any Dis-
 covery of our want of such *Ability*s. This
 is the reason that *Wealth* and *Power*, the
 great *Engines* of *Virtue*. when presum'd to
 be intended for *benevolent* Purposes, either
 toward our Friends or our Country, procure
Honour from others, and are apt to beget
Pride

 Sect. 5. *Pride* in the Possessor ; which, as it is a general Passion which may be either good or evil, according as it is grounded, we may describe to be *the Joy which arises from the real or imagin'd Possession of Honour, or Claim to it.* The same are the Effects of *Knowledge, Sagacity, Strength* ; and hence it is that Men are apt to boast of them.

BUT whenever it appears that Men have only their *private Advantage* in view, in the application of these *Abilitys*, or *natural Advantages*, the *Honour* ceases, and we study to conceal them, or at least are not fond of displaying them ; and much more when there is any Suspicion of an *ill-natur'd Application*. Thus some *Misers* are ashamed of their *Wealth*, and study to conceal it ; as the *malicious* or *selfish* do their *Power* : Nay, this is very often done where there is no positive evil Intention ; because the diminishing their *Abilitys*, increases the *moral Good* of any little kind Action, which they can find in their hearts to perform.

*Selfishness
shameful.*

IN short, we always see Actions which flow from *publick Love*, accompany'd with generous Boldness and Openness ; and not only *malicious*, but even *selfish ones*, the matter of Shame and Confusion ; and that Men study to conceal them. The Love of *private Pleasure* is the ordinary occasion of *Vice* ; and when Men have got any lively Notions of
Vir-

Virtue, they generally begin to be ashamed of Sect. 5.
 every thing which betrays *Selfishness*, even in
 Instances where it is innocent. We are apt
 to imagine, that others observing us in such
 Pursuits, form mean Opinions of us, as too
 much set on private Pleasure; and hence we
 shall find such Enjoyments, in most polite
 Nations, conceal'd from those who do not
 partake with us. Such are *venereal Pleasures*
 between *Persons marry'd*, and even *eating*
 and *drinking* alone, any nicer sorts of Meats
 or Drinks: whereas a *hospitable Table* is rather
 matter of boasting; and so are all other kind,
 generous Offices between *marry'd Persons*,
 where there is no Suspicion of *Self-Love* in
 the *Agent*; but he is imagin'd as acting from
 Love to his *Associate*. This, I fancy, first
 introduc'd Ideas of *Modesty* in polite Nations,
 and *Custom* has strengthen'd them wonderfull-
 ly; so that we are now ashamed of many
 things, upon some confus'd implicit Opini-
 ons of *moral Evil*, tho we know not upon
 what account.

HERE too we may see the reason, why
 we are not ashamed of any of the Methods
 of *Grandeur*, or *High-Living*. There is such
 a mixture of *moral Ideas*, of *Benevolence*, of
Abilities kindly employ'd; so many Depen-
 dants *supported*, so many Friends *entertain'd*,
assisted, *protected*; such a *Capacity* imagin'd
 for great and amiable *Actions*, that we are
 never ashamed, but rather boast of such
 things.

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Sect. 5. things. We never affect Obscurity or Concealment, but rather desire that our *State* and *Magnificence* should be known. Were it not for this Conjunction of *moral Ideas*, no Mortal could bear the Drudgery of *State*, or abstain from laughing at those who did. Could any Man be pleas'd with a Company of *Statues* furrounding his Table, so artfully contriv'd as to consume his various Courses, and inspir'd by some Servant, like so many Puppets, to give the usual trifling Returns in praise of their Fare? Or with so many *Machines* to perform the Cringes and Whispers of a Levee?

THE *Shame* we suffer from the Meanness of *Dress, Table, Equipage*, is entirely owing to the same reason. This Meanness is often imagin'd to argue *Avarice, Meanness of Spirit*, want of *Capacity*, or *Conduēt* in Life, of *Industry*, or *moral Abilitys* of one kind or other. To confirm this, let us observe that Men will glory in the Meanness of their Fare, when it was occasion'd by a good Action. How many would be asham'd to be surpriz'd at a Dinner of *cold Meat*, who will boast of their having fed upon *Dogs and Horses* at the Siege of *Derry*? And they will all tell you that they were not, nor are asham'd of it.

THIS ordinary Connexion in our Imagination, between *external Grandeur, Regularity*

riches in *Dress*, *Equipage*, *Retinue*, *Badges* of *Señ. 5.*
Honour, and some *moral Abilities* greater than ~~~~~
 ordinary, is perhaps of more consequence in
 the World than some *recluse Philosophers* ap-
 prehend, who pique themselves upon de-
 spising these external Shews. This may pos-
 sibly be a great, if not the only Cause of
 what some count *miraculous*, viz. That *Civil*
Governors of no greater Capacity than their
 Neighbours, by some inexpressible *Awe*, and
Authority, quell the Spirits of the *Vulgar*,
 and keep them in subjection by such small
 Guards, as might easily be conquer'd by
 those Associations which might be rais'd a-
 mong the *Disaffected*, or *Factionous* of any
State; who are daring enough among their
Equals, and shew a sufficient Contempt of
 Death for undertaking such an Enterprize.

HENCE also we may discover the reason,
 why the gratifying our *superior Senses* of
Beauty and *Harmony*, or the Enjoyment of the
 Pleasures of *Knowledge*, never occasions any
 Shame or Confusion, tho our Enjoyment
 were known to all the *World*. The Objects
 which furnish this Pleasure, are of such a
 nature, as to afford the same Delights to
 multitudes; nor is there any thing in the
 Enjoyment of them by one, which excludes
 any Mortal from a like Enjoyment. So that
 altho we pursue these Enjoyments from *Self-*
Love, yet, since our Enjoyment cannot be
 prejudicial to others, no Man is imagin'd
 any

Sect. 5. any way *inhumanly selfish*, from the fullest Enjoyment of them which is possible. The same *Regularity* or *Harmony* which delights me, may at the same time delight multitudes; the same *Theorem* shall be equally fruitful of Pleasure; when it has entertain'd thousands. Men therefore are not ashamed of such Pursuits, since they never, of themselves, seduce us into any thing *malicious*, *envious*, or *ill-natur'd*; nor does any one apprehend another *too selfish*, from his pursuing Objects of unexhausted universal Pleasure.*

THIS View of *Honour* and *Shame* may also let us see the reason, why most Men are uneasy at being prais'd, when they themselves are present. Every one is delighted with the Esteem of others, and must enjoy great pleasure when he hears himself commended; but we are unwilling others should observe our Enjoyment of this Pleasure, which is really *selfish*; or that they should imagine us fond of it, or influenc'd by hopes of it in our good Actions: and therefore we choose Secrecy for the Enjoyment of it, as we do with respect to other Pleasures, in which others do not share with us.

* See another reason of this, perhaps more probably true, in the *Essay on the Passions*, p. 6.

VIII. LET us next consider another Determination of our *Mind*, which strongly proves *Benevolence* to be *natural* to us, and that is COMPASSION; by which we are dispos'd to study the *Interest* of others, without any Views of *private Advantage*. This needs little Illustration. Every Mortal is made uneasy by any grievous Misery he sees another involv'd in, unless the Person be imagin'd *evil*, in a *moral Sense*: Nay, it is almost impossible for us to be unmov'd, even in that Case. *Advantage* may make us do a cruel Action, or may overcome *Pity*; but it scarce ever extinguishes it. A sudden Passion of *Hatred* or *Anger* may represent a Person as *absolutely evil*, and so extinguish *Pity*; but when the Passion is over, it often returns. Another *disinterested* View may even in cold blood overcome *Pity*; such as *Love* to our *Country*, or *Zeal* for *Religion*. *Persecution* is generally occasion'd by *Love* of *Virtue*, and a *Desire* of the *eternal Happiness* of *Mankind*, altho our *Folly* makes us choose absurd Means to promote it; and is often accompany'd with *Pity* enough to make the *Persecutor* uneasy, in what, for prepollent Reasons, he chooses; unless his Opinion leads him to look upon the *Heretick* as *absolutely* and *entirely evil*.

WE may here observe how wonderfully the Constitution of *human Nature* is adapted

Sect. 5. ed to move *Compassion*. Our *Misery* or *Distress* immediately appears in our *Countenance*, if we do not study to prevent it, and propagates some Pain to all Spectators; who from Observation, universally understand the meaning of those *dismal Airs*. We *mechanically* send forth *S shrieks* and *Groans* upon any surprising Apprehension of *Evil*; so that no regard to Decency can sometimes restrain them. This is the Voice of NATURE, understood by all Nations, by which all who are present are rous'd to our Assistance, and sometimes our *injurious* Enemy is made to relent.

WE observ'd above *, that we are not immediately excited by *Compassion* to desire the *Removal* of our own Pain: we think it just to be so affected upon the Occasion, and dislike those who are not so. But we are excited directly to desire the *Relief* of the Miserable; without any imagination that this Relief is a *private Good* to our selves: And if we see this impossible, we may by *Reflection* discern it to be vain for us to indulge our *Compassion* any farther; and then *Self-love* prompts us to retire from the Object which occasions our Pain, and to endeavour to divert our Thoughts. But where there is no such *Reflection*, People are hurry'd by a *natural*

* See Sect. ii. Art. 8. Par. 2.

ral, kind Instinct, to see Objects of *Compassion*, Sect. 5. and expose themselves to this Pain when they can give no reason for it ; as in the Instance of *publick Executions*.

THIS same Principle leads Men to *Tragedies* ; only we are to observe, that another strong reason of this, is the *moral Beauty* of the *Characters* and *Actions* which we love to behold. For I doubt, whether any Audience would be pleas'd to see fictitious Scenes of Misery, if they were kept strangers to the *moral Qualities* of the Sufferers, or their *Characters* and *Actions*. As in such a case, there would be no *Beauty* to raise Desire of seeing such Representations, I fancy we would not expose our selves to Pain alone, from Misery which we knew to be fictitious.

IT was the same Cause which crouded the *Roman Theatres* to see *Gladiators*. There the People had frequent Instances of great *Courage*, and *Contempt* of Death, two great *moral Abilities*, if not *Virtues*. Hence CICE-RO looks upon them as great Instructions in *Fortitude*. The *Antagonist Gladiator* bore all the blame of the Cruelty committed, among People of little Reflection ; and the *courageous* and artful one, really obtain'd a Reputation of *Virtue*, and Favour among the Spectators, and was vindicated by the Necessity of *Self-defense*. In the mean time they were inadvertent to this, that their crouding

R

to


Sect. 5. to such Sights, and favouring the Persons who presented them with such Spectacles of Courage, and with Opportunities of following their *natural Instinct* to *Compassion*, was the true occasion of all the real Distress, or Assaults which they were sorry for.

WHAT Sentiments can we imagine a *Candidate* would have rais'd of himself, had he presented his Countrymen only with Scenes of *Misery*; had he drain'd *Hospitals* and *Infirmaries* of all their pityable Inhabitants, or had he bound so many *Slaves*, and without any Resistance, butcher'd them with his own Hands? I should very much question the Success of his Election, (however *Compassion* might cause his Shews still to be frequented) if his *Antagonist* chose a Diversion apparently more *virtuous*, or with a *Mixture* of Scenes of *Virtue*.

*Compassion
natural.*

How independent this Disposition to *Compassion* is on *Custom*, *Education*, or *Instruction*, will appear from the prevalence of it in *Women* and *Children*, who are less influenc'd by these. That *Children* delight in some Actions which are *cruel* and *tormenting* to Animals which they have in their Power, flows not from *Malice*, or want of *Compassion*, but from their *Ignorance* of those signs of Pain which many Creatures make; together with a *Curiosity* to see the various Contortions of their Bodys. For when they are more acquainted

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quainted with these Creatures, or come by Sect. 5:
any means to know their Sufferings, their 
Compassion often becomes too strong for their
Reason; as it generally does in beholding *Ex-*
ecutions, where as soon as they observe the
evidences of Distress, or Pain in the *Male-*
factor, they are apt to condemn this necessa-
ry Method of Self-defense in the *State*.

S E C T. VI.

Concerning the Importance of this moral Sense to the present Happiness of Mankind, and its Influence on human Affairs.

Importance of the Moral Sense.

I. IT may now probably appear, that notwithstanding the Corruption of Manners so justly complain'd of every where, this *moral Sense* has a greater Influence on *Mankind* than is generally imagin'd, altho it is often directed by very partial imperfect Views of *publick Good*, and often overcome by *Self-love*. But we shall offer some farther Considerations, to prove, " That it gives us " more *Pleasure* and *Pain* than all our *other Facultys*." And to prevent Repetitions, let us observe, " That wherever any *morally good Quality* gives *Pleasure* from *Reflection*, " or from *Honour*, the contrary *evil one* will " give proportionable *Pain*, from *Remorse* " and *Shame*." Now we shall consider the *moral Pleasures*, not only *separately*, but as they are the *most delightful Ingredient* in the ordinary *Pleasures of Life*.

ALL MEN seem persuaded of some *Excellency* in the Possession of *good moral Qualities*, which is superior to all other *Enjoyments* ;

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ments ; and on the contrary, look upon a *Sect. 6.*
 State of *moral Evil*, as worse and more
 wretched than any other whatsoever. We
 must not form our Judgment in this matter
 from the Actions of Men ; for however they
 may be influenc'd by *moral Sentiments*, yet it
 is certain, that *self-interested Passions* fre-
 quently overcome them, and *partial Views*
 of the Tendency of Actions, make us do
 what is really *morally evil*, apprehending it
 to be *good*. But let us examine the Senti-
 ments which Men univerfally form of the
 State of others, when they are no way im-
 mediately concern'd ; for in these Sentiments
human Nature is *calm* and *undisturb'd*, and
 shews its *true Face*.

N o w should we imagine a *rational Crea-
 ture* in a sufficiently happy State, whose
 Mind was, without *Interruption*, wholly oc-
 cupy'd with pleasant Sensations of *Smell*,
Taste, *Touch*, &c. if at the same time all
 other Ideas were excluded ? Should we not
 think the State *low*, *mean* and *sordid*, if there
 were no *Society*, no *Love* or *Friendship*, no
good Offices ? What then must that State be
 wherein there are no Pleasures but those of
 the *external Senses*, with such long Intervals
 as *human Nature* at present must have ? Do
 these short Fits of Pleasure make the *Luxu-
 rious* happy ? How *insipid* and *joyless* are the
 Reflections on past Pleasure ? And how poor
 a Recompense is the Return of the transient

Señ. 6. Sensation, for the *nauseous Satiety*, and *Languors* in the Intervals? This *Frame* of our *Nature*, so incapable of long Enjoyments of the *external Senses*, points out to us, “ That
 “ there must be some other more *durable*
 “ *Pleasure*, without such *tedious Interrup-*
 “ *tions*, and *nauseous Reflections*.”

LET us even join with the Pleasures of the *external Senses*, the Perceptions of *Beauty*, *Order*, *Harmony*. These are no doubt more *noble Pleasures*, and seem to enlarge the *Mind*; and yet how *cold* and *joyless* are they, if there be no *moral Pleasures* of *Friendship*, *Love* and *Beneficence*? Now if the bare Absence of *moral Good*, makes, in our Judgment, the State of a rational Agent contemptible; the Presence of *contrary Dispositions* is always imagin'd by us to sink him into a degree of Misery, from which no other Pleasures can relieve him. Would we ever wish to be in the same Condition with a *wrathful*, *malicious*, *revengeful*, or *envious Being*, tho we were at the same time to enjoy all the Pleasures of the *external* and *internal Senses*? The internal Pleasures of *Beauty* and *Harmony*, contribute greatly indeed toward soothing the Mind into a forgetfulness of *Wrath*, *Malice* or *Revenge*; and they must do so, before we can have any tolerable Delight or Enjoyment: for while *these Affections* possess the Mind, there is nothing but *Torment* and *Misery*.

WHAT

WHAT *Castle-builder*, who forms to himself imaginary Scenes of Life, in which he thinks he should be happy, ever made *ac-*^{*Castle-builders*}*prove it. knowledg'd Treachery, Cruelty, or Ingratitude,* the Steps by which he mounted to his wish'd for Elevation, or Parts of his Character, when he had attain'd it? We always conduct our selves in such Resveries, according to the Dictates of *Honour, Faith, Generosity, Courage*; and the lowest we can sink, is hoping we may be enrich'd by some innocent Accident.

*O si urnam Argenti Fors quæ mihi monstret! **——

But *Labour, Hunger, Thirst, Poverty, Pain, Danger*, have nothing so detestable in them, that our *Self-love* cannot allow us to be often expos'd to them. On the contrary, the Virtues which these give us occasions of displaying, are so amiable and excellent, that scarce ever is any imaginary Hero in *Romance*, or *Epic*, brought to his highest Pitch of Happiness, without going thro' them *all*. Where there is no *Virtue*, there is nothing worth Desire or Contemplation; the *Romance*, or *Epos* must end. Nay, the *Difficulty* †, or *natural Evil*, does so much increase the Vir-

* Hor. Lib. 2. Sat. 6. ver. 10.

† Sect. iii. Art. 11. Axiom 6.

Sect. 6. *tue* of the good Action which it accompanys, that we cannot easily sustain these Works after the Distress is over; and if we continue the Work, it must be by presenting a new Scene of *Benevolence* in a prosperous Fortune. A Scene of *external Prosperity* or *natural Good*, without any thing *moral* or *virtuous*, cannot entertain a Person of the dullest Imagination, had he ever so much interested himself in the Fortunes of his Hero; for where *Virtue* ceases, there remains nothing worth wishing to our Favourite, or which we can be delighted to view his Possession of, when we are most studious of his Happiness.

*Virtue
own'd su-
perior to
all Plea-
sures.*

LET us take a particular Instance, to try how much we prefer the Possession of *Virtue* to all other Enjoyments, and how we look upon *Vice* as worse than any other Misery. Who could ever read the History of REGULUS, as related by CICERO and some others, without concerning himself in the Fortunes of that *gallant* Man, sorrowing at his Sufferings, and wishing him a better Fate? But how better a Fate? Should he have comply'd with the Terms of the CARTHAGINIANS, and preserv'd himself from the intended Tortures, tho to the detriment of his Country? Or should he have violated his plighted Faith and Promise of returning? Will any Man say, that either of these is the better Fate he wishes his Favourite? Had he acted thus, *that* *Virtue* would

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would have been gone, which interests every Sect. 6. one in his Fortunes.——“ Let him take his Fate like other common Mortals.”—— What else do we wish then, but that the CARTHAGINIANS had relented of their Cruelty, or that PROVIDENCE, by some unexpected Event, had rescued him out of their hands?

NOW may not this teach us, that we are indeed determin'd to judge *Virtue* with Peace and Safety, preferable to *Virtue* with Distress; but that at the same time we look upon the State of the *Virtuous*, the *Publick-spirited*, even in the utmost natural Distress, as preferable to all affluence of other Enjoyments? For this is what we choose to have our Favourite Hero in, notwithstanding all its Pains and natural Evils. We should never have imagin'd him happier, had he acted otherwise; or thought him in a more eligible State, with Liberty and Safety, at the expense of his *Virtue*. We secretly judge the Purchase too dear; and therefore we never imagine he acted foolishly in securing his *Virtue*, his *Honour*, at the expense of his *Ease*, his *Pleasure*, his *Life*. Nor can we think these latter Enjoyments worth the keeping, when the former are intirely lost.

II. LET us in the same manner examine our Sentiments of the Happiness of others in common Life. WEALTH and EXTERNAL

Necessary in other Pleasures.

NAL

Sect. 6. *NAL PLEASURES* bear no small bulk in our Imaginations; but does there not always accompany this Opinion of Happiness in *Wealth*, some suppos'd *beneficent Intention* of doing good Offices to Persons dear to us, at least to our *Familys*, or *Kinsmen*? And in our imagin'd Happiness from *external Pleasure*, are not some Ideas always included of some *moral Enjoyments* of *Society*, some *Communication* of Pleasure, something of *Love*, of *Friendship*, of *Esteem*, of *Gratitude*? Who ever pretended to a *Taste* of these Pleasures without *Society*? Or if any seem violent in pursuit of them, how *base* and *contemptible* do they appear to all Persons, even to those who could have no expectation of Advantage from their having a more generous Notion of Pleasure?

N o w were there no *moral Sense*, no Happiness in *Benevolence*, and did we act from no other Principle than *Self-love*; sure there is no Pleasure of the external Senses, which we could not enjoy alone, with less trouble and expence than in *Society*. But a *Mixture* of the *moral Pleasures* is what gives the *alluring Relish*; 'tis some Appearance of *Friendship*, of *Love*, of *communicating Pleasure* to others, which preserves the Pleasures of the *Luxurious* from being *nauseous* and *insipid*. And this partial Imagination of some good *moral Qualitys*, some *Benevolence*, in Actions which have many *cruel, inhuman,*
and

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and *destructive* Consequences toward others, Sect. 6. is what has kept *Vice* more in countenance than any other Consideration *.

BUT to convince us farther wherein the Happiness of *Wealth*, and *external Pleasure* lies; let us but suppose *Malice*, *Wrath*, *Revenge*; or only *Solitude*, Absence of *Friendship*, of *Love*, of *Society*, of *Esteem*, join'd with the Possession of them; and all the Happiness vanishes like a Dream. And yet *Love*, *Friendship*, *Society*, *Humanity*, tho' accompany'd with *Poverty* and *Toil*, nay even with smaller degrees of *Pain*, such as do not wholly occupy the Mind, are not only the Object of Love from others, but even of a sort of Emulation: which plainly shews, "That *Virtue* is the chief *Happiness* in the " Judgment of *all Mankind*."

III. THERE is a farther Consideration ^{*The Charm in*} which must not be pass'd over, concerning ^{*Beauty.*} the EXTERNAL BEAUTY of Persons, which all allow to have a great Power over human Minds. Now it is some apprehended *Morality*, some natural or imagin'd Indication of *concomitant Virtue*, which gives it this powerful Charm above all other kinds of *Beauty*. Let us consider the Characters of *Beauty*, which are commonly admir'd in Countenances, and we shall find them to be

* See above, Sect. iv. Art. 4. Par. 4. 5.

W Sect. 6. *Sweetness, Mildness, Majesty, Dignity, Vivacity, Humility, Tenderneſs, Good-nature* ; that is, that certain *Airs, Proportions, je ne ſçai quoy's*, are natural Indications of ſuch Virtues, or of Abilitys or Diſpoſitions toward them. As we obſerv'd above * of *Miſery*, or *Diſtreſs* appearing in Countenances ; ſo it is certain, almoſt all *habitual Diſpoſitions of Mind*, form the Countenance in ſuch a manner, as to give ſome Indications of them to the Spectator. Our *violent Paſſions* are obvious at firſt view in the Countenance ; ſo that ſometimes no Art can conceal them : and ſmaller degrees of them give ſome leſs obvious Turns to the Face, which an accurate Eye will obſerve. Now when the *natural Air* of a Face approaches to that which any Paſſion would form it unto, we make a conjecture from this concerning the *leading Diſpoſition* of the Perſon's *Mind*.

As to thoſe Fancys which prevail in certain Countreys toward *large Lips, little Noſes, narrow Eyes* ; unleſs we knew from themſelves under what Idea ſuch Features are admir'd, whether as *naturally beautiful* in Form, or Proportion to the reſt of the Face ; or as preſum'd Indications of ſome *moral Quality* ; we may more probably conclude that it is the *latter* ; ſince this is ſo much the Ground of Approbation, or Averſion towards

* See Sect. v. Art. 8. Par. 2.

Faces among our selves. And as to those Sect. 6.
 Features which we count *naturally disagreeable* as to Form, we know the Aversion on this account is so weak, that *moral Qualities* shall procure a liking even to the Face, in Persons who are sensible of the *Irregularity*, or want of that *Regularity* which is common in others. With us, certain Features are imagin'd to denote *Dullness*; as *hollow Eyes, large Lips*; a *Colour* of Hair, *Wantonness*: and may we not conclude the like *Association of Ideas*, perhaps in both Cases without Foundation in *Nature*, to be the Ground of those Approbations which appear unaccountable to us?

IN the same manner, when there is nothing *grossly* disproportion'd in any Face, what is it we dispraise? Is it *Pride, Haughtiness, Sourness, Ill-nature, Discontent, Folly, Levity, Wantonness*; which some Countenances discover in the manner above hinted at? And *these Airs*, when brought by Custom upon the most *regular Set* of Features, have often made them very disagreeable; as the *contrary Airs* have given the strongest Charms to Countenances, which were far from Perfection in *external Beauty*.

ONE cannot but observe the Judgment of HOMER, in his Character of HELEN. Had he ever so much rais'd our Idea of her *external Beauty*, it would have been ridiculous

Se&. 6. lous to have engag'd his Countrymen in a War for such a HELEN as VIRGIL has drawn her. He therefore still retains something amiable in a *moral Sense*, amidst all her Weakness, and often suggests to his Reader,

——— 'Ελένης ὀνείματα τε σπονδάς τε *,

as the Spring of his Countrymens Indignation and Revenge.

*The Cause
of different
Fancys of
Beauty.*

THIS Consideration may shew us one Reason, among many others, for Mens *different Fancys*, or *Relishes of Beauty*. The Mind of Man, however generally dispos'd to esteem *Benevolence* and *Virtue*, yet by more particular Attention to some kinds of it than others, may gain a stronger Admiration of some *moral Dispositions* than others. *Military Men* may admire *Courage* more than other Virtues; Persons of *smaller Courage*, may admire *Sweetness of Temper*; Men of *Thought* and *Reflection*, who have more extensive Views, will admire the *like Qualities* in others; Men of *keen Passions*, expect equal Returns of all the kind Affections, and are wonderfully charm'd by *Compliance*: the *Proud* may like those of *higher Spirit*, as more suitable to their Dignity; tho' *Pride*, join'd with *Reflection* and *good Sense*, will recommend to them *Humility* in the Person belov'd. Now as the *various Tempers* of Men

* See Homer, *Iliad* 2. ver. 356, 590.

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make *various* Tempers of others agreeable to Sect. 6. them, so they must differ in their *Relishes* of *Beauty*, according as it denotes the several Qualitys most agreeable to themselves.

THIS may also shew us, how in *virtuous Love* there may be the greatest Beauty, without the least Charm to engage a Rival. *Love* it self gives a Beauty to the *Lover*, in the Eyes of the Person *belov'd*, which no other Mortal is much affected with. And this perhaps is the *strongest Charm* possible, and that which will have the greatest Power, where there is not some very great Counter-balance from *worldly Interest*, *Vice*, or *gross Deformity*.

IV. THIS same Consideration may be extended to the whole AIR and MOTION of any Person. Every thing we count agreeable, some way denotes *Chearfulness*, *Ease*, a *Condescension*, and *Readiness* to oblige, a *Love of Company*, with a *Freedom* and *Boldness* which always accompanys an *honest*, *undesigning Heart*. On the contrary, what is shocking in *Air*, or *Motion*, is *Roughness*, *Ill-nature*, a *Disregard* to others, or a *foolish Shame-facedness*, which evidences a Person to be un-experienc'd in Society, or Offices of Humanity.

WITH relation to these *Airs*, *Motions*, *Gestures*, we may observe, that considering the

Se^{ct}. 6. the different *Ceremonys*, and *Modes* of shewing respect, which are practis'd in different Nations, we may indeed probably conclude that there is no *natural* Connection between any of these *Gestures*, or *Motions*, and the *Affections* of *Mind* which they are by *Custom* made to express. But when *Custom* has made any of them pass for Expressions of *such Affections*, by a constant *Association* of Ideas, some shall become *agreeable* and *lovely*, and others *extremely offensive*, altho they were both, in their own Nature, *perfectly indifferent*.

*The Spring
of Love be-
tween the
Sexes.*

V. HERE we may remark the manner in which NATURE leads *Mankind* to the Continuance of their Race, and by its strongest Power engages them to what occasions the greatest Toil and Anxiety of Life ; and yet supports them under it with an inexpressible delight. We might have been excited to the Propagation of our Species, by such an uneasy Sensation as would have effectually determin'd us to it, without any great prospect of Happiness ; as we see *Hunger* and *Thirst* determine us to preserve our Bodys, tho few look upon eating and drinking as any considerable Happiness. The *Sexes* might have been engag'd to Concurrence, as we imagine the *Brutes* are by *Desire* only, or by a *Love* of *sensual Pleasure*. But how dull and insipid had Life been, were there no more in MARRIAGE ?
would have had Resolution enough to bear

bear all the Cares of a *Family*, and Education- Sect. 6.
 on of *Children*? Or who, from the general Motive of *Benevolence* alone, would have chosen to subject himself to *natural Affection* toward an *Offspring*, when he could so easily foresee what Troubles it might occasion?

THIS Inclination therefore of the *Sexes*, is founded on something stronger, and more efficacious and joyful, than the Sollicitations of *Uneasiness*, or the bare desire of *sensible Pleasure*. BEAUTY gives a favourable Presumption of *good moral Dispositions*, and *Acquaintance* confirms this into a *real Love* of *Esteem*, or begets it, where there is little *Beauty*. This raises an expectation of the greatest *moral Pleasures* along with the *sensible*, and a thousand tender Sentiments of *Humanity* and *Generosity*; and makes us impatient for a *Society* which we imagine big with unspeakable *moral Pleasures*: where nothing is indifferent, and every trifling Service, being an Evidence of *this strong Love* and *Esteem*, is mutually receiv'd with the Rapture and Gratitude of the greatest Benefit, and of the most substantial Obligation. And where *Prudence* and *Good-nature* influence both sides, this *Society* may answer all their Expectations.

NAY, let us examine those of looser Conduct with relation to the *fair Sex*, and we shall find, that *Love* of *sensible Pleasure* is not

258 *An INQUIRY concerning*

Sect. 6. the chief Motive of *Debauchery*, or *false Gallantry*. Were it so, the *meanest Prostitutes* would please as much as any. But we know sufficiently, that Men are fond of *Good-nature, Faith, Pleasantry of Temper, Wit*, and many other *moral Qualitys* even in a *Mistress*. And this may furnish us with a Reason for what appears pretty unaccountable, *viz.* "That *Chastity* it self has a powerful Charm in the " Eyes of the *Dissolute*, even when they are " attempting to destroy it."

THIS powerful Determination even to a *limited Benevolence*, and other *moral Sentiments*, is observ'd to give a strong bias to our Minds towards a *universal Goodness, Tenderness, Humanity, Generosity*, and *Contempt of private Good* in our whole Conduct; besides the obvious Improvement it occasions in our *external Deportment*, and in our relish of *Beauty, Order, and Harmony*. As soon as a Heart, before *hard* and *obdurate*, is soften'd in this Flame, we shall observe, arising along with it, a Love of *Poetry, Musick*, the *Beauty of Nature* in rural Scenes, a *Contempt* of other selfish Pleasures of the *external Senses*, a *neat Dress*, a *humane Deportment*, a *Delight* in and *Emulation* of every thing which is *gal-lant, generous, and friendly*.

Society,
Friend-
ships, from IN the same manner we are determin'd to
our Moral common Friendships and Acquaintances, not
sense. by the fullen Apprehensions of our *Necessitys*,
or

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or Prospects of *Interest* ; but by an incredible Sect. 6. variety of little agreeable, engaging Evidences of *Love*, *Good-nature*, and other *morally amiable Qualities* in those we converse with. And among the rest, none of the least considerable is an Inclination to *Cheerfulness*, a *Delight* to raise *Mirth* in others, which procures a secret Approbation and Gratitude toward the Person who puts us in such an agreeable, innocent, good-natur'd, and easy state of Mind, as we are conscious of while we enjoy pleasant Conversation, enliven'd by moderate Laughter.

VI. UPON this *moral* Sense is founded all the Power of the ORATOR. The various Figures of Speech, are the several Manners which a lively Genius, warm'd with Passions suitable to the Occasion, naturally runs into, only a little diversify'd by *Custom* : and they only move the *Hearers*, by giving a lively Representation of the Passions of the *Speaker* ; which are communicated to the *Hearers*, as we * observ'd above of one Passion, viz. *Pity*.

Now the Passions which the *Orator* attempts to raise, are all founded on *moral Qualities*. All the bold *Metaphors*, or *Descriptions*, all the artificial Manners of *Expostulation*, *Arguing*, and *addressing* the *Audience*, all the

* See Sect. v. Art. 8. Par. 2.

Sect. 6. *Appeals to Mankind* are but more lively Methods of giving the *Audience* a stronger impression of the *moral Qualities* of the Person *accus'd*, or *defended*; of the *Action advis'd*, or *dissuaded*: And all the *Antitheses*, or *Witticisms*; all the *Cadences* of sonorous Periods, whatever inferior kind of Beauty they may have separately, are of no consequence to persuade, if we neglect moving the Passions by some Species of *Morality*. They may perhaps raise a little Admiration of the *Speaker*, among those who already favour his Party, but they oftner raise Contempt in his *Adversarys*. But when you display the *Beneficence* of any Action, the *good Effect* it shall have on the *Publick* in promoting the welfare of the *Innocent*, and relieving the *unjustly distressed*; if you prove your *Allegations*, you make every Mortal approve the undertaking it. When any Person is to be *recommended*, display his *Humanity*, *Generosity*, *Study* of the *publick Good*, and *Capacity* to promote it, his *Contempt* of Dangers, and private Pleasures; and you are sure to procure him *Love* and *Esteem*. If at the same time you show his *Distress*, or the *Injurys* he has suffer'd, you raise *Pity*, and every *tender Affection*.

ON the contrary, represent the *Barbarity*, or *Cruelty* of any Action, the *Misery* it shall procure to the *Kind*, the *Faithful*, the *Generous*, or only to the *Innocent*; and you raise an Abhorrence of it in the Breasts of the *Audience*,

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dience, tho they were not the Persons who Sect. 6.
would have suffer'd by it. The same way, ~~~~~
would you make a Person *infamous*, and *despised* and *bated*, represent him as *cruel*, *inhuman*, or *treacherous* toward the most distant rational Agents; or shew him only to be *selfish*, and given to *solitary Luxury*, without regard to any *Friend*, or the *Interest* of others; and you have gain'd your Point as soon as you prove what you alledge. Nay, how does it stop our Admiration of any *celebrated* Action, to suggest, " That the *Author* " of it was no *Fool*; he knew it would turn " to his own *Advantage*?"

N o w, are the *Learned* and *Polite* the only Persons who are mov'd by such Speeches? Must Men know the Schemes of the *Moralists* and *Politicians*, or the *Art of Rhetorick*, to be capable of being persuaded? Must they be nicely conversant in all the Methods of promoting *Self-Interest*? Nay, do we not see on the contrary, the *rude undisciplin'd Multitude* most affected? Where had *Oratory* so much Power as in *popular States*, and that too before the Perfection of the Sciences? *Reflection*, and *Study*, may raise in Men a Suspicion of Design, and Caution of Assent, when they have some knowledge of the various Topicks of Argument, and find them employ'd upon themselves: but *rude Nature* is still open to every *moral* Impression, and carry'd furiously along without Caution, or

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Sect. 6. Suspense. It was not the *Groves* of the *Academy*, or the *polish'd Stones* of the *Portico*, or the *manag'd Horses* of GREECE, which listen'd to the Harp of an AMPHION, or an ORPHEUS; but the *Trees* and *Rocks* and *Tygers* of the *Forest*: which may shew us,
 “ That there is some *Sense* of *Morality* antecedent to Instruction, or metaphysical Arguments proving the *private Interest* of the
 “ Person who is persuaded, to be connected
 “ with the *publick Good*.”

*Poetry
 pleases
 from this
 Moral
 Sense.*

VII. WE shall find this *Sense* to be the Foundation also of the chief Pleasures of POETRY. We hinted, in the former Treatise, at the Foundation of Delight in the *Numbers, Measures, Metaphors, Similitudes* *. But as the Contemplation of *moral Objects*, either of *Vice* or *Virtue*, affects us more strongly, and moves our Passions in a quite different and more powerful manner, than *natural Beauty*, or (what we commonly call) *Deformity*; so the most moving Beautys bear a Relation to our *moral Sense*, and affect us more vehemently, than the Representation of *natural Objects* in the liveliest Descriptions. *Dramatic*, and *Epic* Poetry, are intirely address'd to this *Sense*, and raise our Passions by the Fortunes of *Characters*, distinctly represented as *morally good*, or *evil*; as might be

* See Treatise I. Sect. ii. Art. 13. Sect. iv. Art. 3.

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seen more fully, were we to consider the Sect. (6)
 Passions separately. 

WHERE we are studying to raise any *Desire*, or *Admiration* of an Object *really beautiful*, we are not content with a *bare Narration*, but endeavour, if we can, to present the *Object* it self, or the most *lively Image* of it. And hence the *Epic Poem*, or *Tragedy*, gives a far greater Pleasure than the Writings of *Philosophers*, tho both aim at recommending *Virtue*. The representing the Actions themselves, if the Representation be *judicious*, *natural*, and *lively*, will make us admire the *Good*, and detest the *Vituous*, the *Inhuman*, the *Treacherous* and *Cruel*, by means of our *moral Sense*, without any Reflections of the *Poet* to guide our Sentiments. It is for this Reason that *HORACE* has justly made Knowledge in *Morals* so necessary to a *good Poet* :

*Scribendi recte SAPERE est & principium
 & fons **.

And again :

*Qui didicit Patriæ quid debeat, & quid
 Amicis,
 Quo sit amore Parens, quo Frater amandus,
 & Hospes,*

* Hor. de Arte Poet. ver. 309.

Sect. 6.



*Quod sit Conscripti, quod Judicis officium,
quæ*

*Partes in bellum missi Ducis ; ille profecto
Reddere Personæ scit convenientia cuique*.*

*Imagery
in Poetry
founded on
the Moral
Sense.*

UPON this same Sense is founded the Power of that great Beauty in Poetry, the PROSOPOPOEIA, by which every Affection is made a Person; every natural Event, Cause, Object, is animated by moral Epithets. For we join the Contemplation of moral Circumstances and Qualities, along with natural Objects, to increase their Beauty or Deformity; and we affect the Hearer in a more lively manner with the Affections describ'd, by representing them as Persons. Thus a shady Wood must have its solemn venerable Genius, and proper rural Gods; every clear Fountain, its sacred chaste Nymph; and River, its bountiful God, with his Urn, and perhaps a Cornucopia diffusing Plenty and Fruitfulness along its Banks. The Day-light is holy, benign, and powerful to banish the pernicious Spirits of the Night. The Morning is a kind, officious Goddess, tripping over the dewy Mountains, and ushering in Light to Gods and Men. War is an impetuous, cruel, undistinguishing Monster, whom no Virtue, no Circumstance of Compassion, can move from his bloody Purposes. The Steel is unrelenting; the Arrow and Spear are impatient to

* Hor. de Arte Poet. ver. 312, &c.


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destroy, and carry *Death* on their Points. Sect. 6. Our modern Engines of War are also *frightful Personages*, counterfeiting with their rude Throats the Thunder of Jove. The *moral Imagery* of *Death* is every where known, viz. his *Insensibility* to *Pity*, his *Inflexibility*, and *universal impartial Empire*. FORTUNE is inimitably drawn by HORACE*, with all her *Retinue* and *Votarys*, and with her *rigid severe Minister*, *Necessity*. The *Qualitys* of *Mind* too become *Persons*. Love becomes a VENUS, or a CUPID; Courage, or *Conduct*, a MARS, or a PALLAS *protecting* and *assisting* the Hero; before them march *Terror* and *Dread*, *Flight* and *Pursuit*, *Shouts*, and *Amazement*. Nay, the *most sacred Poets* are often led into this *Imagery*, and represent *Justice* and *Judgment* as *supporting* the ALMIGHTY'S Throne, and *Mercy* and *Truth* going before his Face: They shew us *Peace* as *springing* up from the Earth, and *Mercy* looking down from Heaven.

EVERY one perceives a greater Beauty in this manner of Representation, this Imagery, this Conjunction of *moral Ideas*, than in the fullest Narration, or the most lively natural Description. When one reads the fourth Book of HOMER, and is prepar'd, from the Council of the *Gods*, to imagine the bloody Sequel, and amidst the most beau-

* See Lib. 1. Od. 35.

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Sect. 6. tiful Description which ever was imagin'd of
 shooting an Arrow, meets with its *moral Epi-*
thet,

————— *μῆλα γὰρ ἔρμ' ὀδυνάων* * ,

————— *The Source of blackest Woes ;*

he will find himself more mov'd by this Circumstance, than by all the Profusion of natural Description which Man could imagine.

History. VIII. HISTORY derives its chief Excellence from the representing the *Manners* and *Characters* ; the Contemplation of which in *Nature* being very affecting, they must necessarily give Pleasure when well related.

Painting. IX. IT is well known too, that a Collection of the best Pieces of *Face-painting* is but a poor Entertainment, when compar'd with those Pieces which represent *moral Actions, Passions, and Characters.*

* See *Homer, Iliad 4. ver. 117.*

S E C T. VII.

A Deduction of some Complex moral Ideas, viz: of Obligation, and Right, Perfect, Imperfect, and External, Alienable, and Unalienable, from this moral Sense.

I. **T**O conclude this Subject, we may, from what has been said, see the *true Original of moral Ideas, viz. This moral Sense of Excellence in every Appearance, or Evidence of Benevolence.* It remains to be explain'd, how we acquire more particular Ideas of *Virtue and Vice*, abstracting from any *Law, Human, or Divine.*

If any one ask, Can we have any Sense of *Obligation* **OBLIGATION**, abstracting from the *Laws* of a *Superior*? We must answer according to the various Senses of the Word *Obligation*. If by *Obligation* we understand a *Determination, without regard to our own Interest, to approve Actions, and to perform them; which Determination shall also make us displeas'd with our selves, and uneasy upon having acted contrary to it*: in this meaning of the word *Obligation*, there is *naturally* an *Obligation* upon all Men to *Benevolence*; and they are still under

Sect. 7. under its Influence, even when by false, or partial Opinions of the natural Tendency of their Actions, this *moral Sense* leads them to *Evil*; unless by long inveterate Habits it be exceedingly weaken'd. For it scarce seems possible wholly to extinguish it. Or, which is to the same purpose, this *internal Sense*, and *Instinct* of *Benevolence*, will either influence our Actions, or else make us very uneasy and dissatisfy'd; and we shall be conscious that we are in a base unhappy State, even without considering any *Law* whatsoever, or any external Advantages lost, or Disadvantages impending from its Sanctions. And farther, there are still such Indications given us of what is in the whole *beneficent*, and what not; as may probably discover to us the true Tendency of every Action; and let us see, some time or other, the evil Tendency of what upon a partial View appear'd good: or if we have no Friends so faithful as to admonish us, the Persons injur'd will not fail to upbraid us. So that no Mortal can secure to himself a perpetual Serenity, Satisfaction, and Self-approbation, but by a *serious Inquiry* into the Tendency of his Actions, and a *perpetual Study* of *universal Good*, according to the justest Notions of it.

BUT if by *Obligation*, we understand a *Motive from Self-Interest*, sufficient to determine all those who duly consider it, and pursue their own Advantage wisely, to a certain Course

Course of Actions; we may have a Sense of Sect. 7. such an *Obligation*, by reflecting on this *Determination* of our *Nature* to approve *Virtue*, to be pleas'd and happy when we reflect upon our having done *virtuous Actions*, and to be uneasy when we are conscious of having acted otherwise; and also by considering how much superior we esteem the Happiness of *Virtue* to any other Enjoyment *. We may likewise have a Sense of this Sort of *Obligation*, by considering those Reasons which prove a constant Course of *benevolent* and *social Actions*, to be the most probable means of promoting the *natural Good* of every *Individual*; as CUMBERLAND and PUFENDORF have prov'd: And all this without Relation to a *Law*.


BUT farther, if our *moral Sense* be suppos'd exceedingly weakned, and the *selfish Passions* grown strong, either thro' some general Corruption of Nature, or inveterate Habits; if our *Understanding* be weak, and we be often in danger of being hurry'd by our *Passions* into precipitate and rash Judgments, that *malicious Actions* shall promote our Advantage more than *Beneficence*; in such a Case, if it be inquir'd what is necessary to engage Men to *beneficent Actions*, or induce a steady Sense of an *Obligation* to act for the *publick Good*; then, no doubt, " A *Law* with Sanctions,

* See above, Sect. vi. Art. 1, 2.

Sec. 7. " given by a *superior Being*, of sufficient
 " Power to make us happy or miserable,
 " must be necessary to counter-balance those
 " apparent Motives of *Interest*, to calm our
 " *Passions*, and give room for the recovery
 " of our *moral Sense*, or at least for a just
 " View of our *Interest*."

How far
 Virtue can
 be taught.

II. No w the principal Business of the *mo-
 ral Philosopher* is to shew, from solid Reasons,
 " That *universal Benevolence* tends to the
 " Happiness of the *Benevolent*, either from
 " the Pleasures of *Reflection, Honour, natural*
 " *Tendency* to engage the good Offices of
 " Men, upon whose Aid we must depend for
 " our Happiness in this World; or from the
 " Sanctions of *divine Laws* discover'd to us
 " by the Constitution of the *Universe*;" that
 so no apparent Views of *Interest* may counter-
 act this *natural Inclination*: but not to at-
 tempt proving, " That Prospects of our *own*
 " *Advantage* of any kind, can raise in us the
 " *virtuous Benevolence* toward others." Let
 the Obstacles from *Self-love* be only remov'd,
 and NATURE it self will incline us to *Be-
 nevolence*. Let the Misery of *excessive Sel-
 fishness*, and all its Passions, be but once
 explain'd, that so *Self-love* may cease to
 counteract our *natural Propensity* to *Bene-
 volence*, and when this *noble Disposition* gets
 loose from these Bonds of *Ignorance*, and false
 Views of *Interest*, it shall be assisted even by
Self-love, and grow strong enough to make

a noble virtuous Character. Then he is to Sect. 7:
 inquire, by *Reflection* upon human Affairs, 
 what Course of Action does most effectually
 promote the *universal Good*, what universal
 Rules or Maxims are to be observ'd, and in
 what Circumstances the Reason of them al-
 ters, so as to admit Exceptions; that so our
good Inclinations may be directed by *Reason*,
 and a just Knowledge of the *Interests* of Man-
 kind. But *Virtue* it self, or *good Dispositions* of
Mind, are not directly taught, or produc'd by
Instruction; they must be originally implant-
 ed in our Nature, by its great AUTHOR;
 and afterwards strengthen'd and confirm'd by
 our own Cultivation.

III. WE are often told, " That there is *Objections*
 " no need of supposing such a *Sense* of Mo-
 " rality given to Men, since *Reflection*, and
 " *Instruction* would recommend the same
 " Actions from Arguments of *Self-Interest*,
 " and engage us, from the acknowledg'd
 " Principle of *Self-love*, to the Practice of
 " them, without this *unintelligible Determi-*
 " *nation* to *Benevolence*, or the *occult Quality*
 " of a *moral Sense*."

IT is perhaps true, that *Reflection* and *Moral*
Reason might lead us to approve the same *Sense, not*
 Actions as *advantageous*. But would not the *from Re-*
same Reflection and Reason likewise, general-
 ly recommend the same *Meats* to us which
 2 our

Seet. 7. our *Taste* represents as pleasant? And shall we thence conclude that we have no *Sense* of *Tasting*? Or that such a *Sense* is *useless*? No: The use is plain in both Cases. Notwithstanding the mighty *Reason* we boast of above other Animals, its *Processes* are too slow, too full of doubt and hesitation, to serve us in every Exigency, either for our own Preservation, without the *external Senses*, or to influence our Actions for the *Good* of the *Whole*, without this *moral Sense*. Nor could we be so strongly determin'd at all times to what is most conducive to either of these Ends, without these *expeditious Monitors*, and *important Sollicitors*; nor so nobly rewarded, when we act vigorously in pursuit of these Ends, by the calm dull Reflections of *Self-Interest*, as by those delightful Sensations.

THIS *natural Determination* to approve and admire, or hate and dislike Actions, is no doubt an *occult Quality*. But is it any way more mysterious that the Idea of an Action should raise *Esteem*, or *Contempt*, than that the motion, or tearing of *Flesh* should give *Pleasure*, or *Pain*; or the Act of Volition should move *Flesh* and *Bones*? In the latter Case, we have got the Brain, and elastic *Fibres*, and animal *Spirits*, and elastic *Fluids*, like the *Indian's* Elephant,

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Elephant, and Tortoise, to bear the Burden Sect. 7.
of the Difficulty: but go one step farther, and you find the whole as difficult as at first, and equally a Mystery with *this Determination* to love and approve, or condemn and despise *Actions* and *Agents*, without any Views of *Interest*, as they appear *benevolent*, or the contrary.

WHEN they offer it as a Presumption that there can be no such *Sense*, antecedent to all Prospect of *Interest*, "That these Actions for the most part are really *advantageous*, one way or other, to the *Actor*, the *Approver*, or *Mankind* in general, by whose Happiness our own State may be some way made better;" may we not ask, supposing the DEITY intended to impress such a *Sense* of something *amiable* in Actions, (which is no impossible Supposition) what sort of Actions would a good GOD determine to *approve*? Must we deny the possibility of such a Determination, if it did not lead us to admire Actions of no *Advantage* to *Mankind*, or to love *Agents* for their being *eminent Triflers*? If then the Actions which a *wise* and *good* GOD must determine us to approve, if he give us any such *Sense* at all, must be Actions *useful* to the *Publick*, this *Advantage* can never be a Reason against the *Sense* it self. After the same manner, we should deny all *Revelation* which taught us *good Sense*, *Humanity*, *Justice*, and a *rational*

T

Sect. 7. *tional Worship*, because *Reason* and *Interest* confirm and recommend such *Principles*, and *Services*; and should greedily embrace every *Contradiction*, *Foppery*, and *Pageantry*, as a *truly divine Institution*, without any thing *humane*, or *useful* to *Mankind*.

Moral
Sense
judges of
Laws.


IV. THE Writers upon opposite Schemes, who deduce all Ideas of *Good* and *Evil* from the *private Advantage* of the *Actor*, or from Relation to a *Law*, and its *Sanctions*, either known from *Reason*, or *Revelation*, are perpetually recurring to this *moral Sense* which they deny; not only in calling the *Laws* of the DEITY *just* and *good*, and alledging *Justice* and *Right* in the DEITY to govern us; but by using a set of Words which import something different from what they will allow to be their only meaning. *Obligation*, with them, is only such a *Constitution*, either of *Nature*, or *some governing Power*, as makes it *advantageous* for the *Agent* to act in a certain manner. Let this Definition be substituted, wherever we meet with the words, *ought*, *should*, *must*, in a moral Sense, and many of their Sentences would seem very strange; as that the DEITY *must* act rationally, *must* not, or *ought* not to punish the Innocent, *must* make the state of the *Virtuous* better than that of the *Wicked*, *must* observe Promises; substituting the Definition of the Words, *must*, *ought*, *should*, would make these Sentences either ridiculous, or very disputable.

V. BUT

V. BUT that our first Ideas of *moral Good* depend not on *Laws*, may plainly appear from our constant Inquiries into the *Justice of Laws themselves*; and that not only of *human Laws*, but of the *divine*. What else can be the meaning of that universal Opinion, "That the *Laws of GOD are just, and holy, and good?*" *Human Laws* may be call'd *good*, because of their Conformity to the *Divine*. But to call the *Laws of the supreme DEITY good, or holy, or just*, if all *Goodness, Holiness, and Justice* be constituted by *Laws*, or the *Will of a Superior* any way reveal'd, must be an insignificant Tautology, amounting to no more than this, "That *GOD wills what he wills.*"

IT must then first be suppos'd that there is something in Actions which is apprehended *absolutely good*; and this is *Benevolence*, or desire of the *publick natural Happiness of rational Agents*; and that our *moral Sense* perceives this *Excellence*: and then we call the *Laws of the DEITY good*, when we imagine that they are contriv'd to promote the *publick Good* in the most effectual and impartial manner. And the *DEITY* is call'd *good*, in a *moral Sense*, when we apprehend that his *whole Providence* tends to the universal Happiness of his *Creatures*; whence we con-

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Sect. 7. clude his *Benevolence*, and *Desire* in their
 Happiness.

SOME tell us, “ That the *Goodness* of
 “ the *divine Laws*, consists in their Confor-
 “ formity to some *essential Rectitude* of his
 “ *Nature*.” But they must excuse us from
 assenting to this, till they make us under-
 stand the meaning of this Metaphor, *essen-*
tial Rectitude ; and till we discern whether
 any thing more is meant by it than a *per-*
fectly wise, uniform, impartial Benevolence.


*Difference
 between
 Constrains
 and Obliga-*
tion.

HENCE we may see the Difference be-
 tween *Constraint* and *Obligation*. There is
 indeed no Difference between *Constraint*, and
 the second Sense of the word *Obligation*, viz.
a Constitution which makes an Action eligible
from Self-Interest, if we only mean *exter-*
nal Interest, distinct from the delightful Con-
 sciousness which arises from the *moral Sense*.
 The Reader need scarcely be told, that by
Constraint, we do not understand an *external*
Force moving our Limbs without our Con-
 sent, for in that Case we are not *Agents* at
 all ; but that *Constraint* which arises from
 the threatening and presenting some *Evil*, in
 order to make us act in a certain manner.
 And yet there seems a universally acknow-
 ledg'd Difference between even this sort of
Constraint, and *Obligation*. We never say
 we are *oblig'd* to do an Action which we
 count base, but we may be *constrain'd* to it :

we never say that the *divine Laws*, by their Sect. 7.
Sanctions, *constrain* us, but *oblige* us; nor do we call Obedience to the DEITY *Constraint*, unless by a Metaphor, tho many own they are influenc'd by fear of Punishments. And yet supposing an *almighty evil Being* should require, under grievous Penaltys, *Treachery*, *Cruelty*, *Ingratitude*, we would call this *Constraint*. The difference is plainly this. When any Sanctions cooperate with our *moral Sense*, in exciting us to Actions which we count *morally good*, we say we are *oblig'd*; but when Sanctions of Rewards or Punishments oppose our *moral Sense*, then we say we are *brib'd* or *constrain'd*. In the former Case we call the *Lawgiver good*, as designing the *publick Happiness*; in the latter we call him *evil*, or *unjust*, for the suppos'd *contrary* Intention. But were all our Ideas of *moral Good* or *Evil*, deriv'd solely from Opinions of *private Advantage* or *Loss* in Actions, I see no possible difference which could be made in the meaning of these words.

VI. FROM this Sense too we derive our *Rights*. Ideas of RIGHTS. Whenever it appears to us, that a *Faculty of doing, demanding, or possessing any thing, universally allow'd in certain Circumstances, would in the whole tend to the general Good*, we say that one in such Circumstances, has a *Right to do, possess, or demand that Thing*. And according as

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Sect. 7. this Tendency to the *publick Good* is *greater*
 or *less*, the *Right* is *greater* or *less*.

*Perfect
Rights.*

THE *Rights* call'd *perfect*, are of *such necessity to the publick Good, that the universal Violation of them would make human Life intolerable*; and it actually makes those miserable, whose *Rights* are thus *violated*. On the contrary, to fulfil these *Rights* in every Instance, tends to the *publick Good*, either *directly*, or by promoting the innocent Advantage of a *Part*. Hence it plainly follows, "That to allow a violent Defence, or Prosecution of such *Rights*, before Civil Government be constituted, cannot in any particular Case be more detrimental to the *Publick*, than the Violation of them with "Impunity." And as to the general Consequences, the universal Use of Force in a *State of Nature*, in pursuance of *perfect Rights*, seems exceedingly *advantageous* to the *Whole*, by making every one dread any Attempts against the *perfect Rights* of others.

*Right of
War, and
Punishment.*

THIS is the *moral Effect* which attends *proper Injury*, or a *Violation of the perfect Rights of others*, viz. A *Right to War*, and all *Violence* which is necessary to oblige the *Injurious* to repair the Damage, and give Security against such Offences for the future. This is the sole Foundation of the *Rights of punishing Criminals*, and of *violent Prosecutions* of our *Rights*, in a *State of Nature*.
And

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And these Rights, naturally residing in the Sect. 7. Persons injur'd, or their *voluntary*, or *invited* Assistants, to use Force according to the Judgment of indifferent Arbitrators, being by the Consent of the *Persons injur'd*, transferr'd to the *Magistrate* in a *Civil State*, are the true Foundation of his Right of Punishment. Instances of *perfect Rights* are those to our *Lives*; to the *Fruits* of our Labours; to demand Performance of *Contracts* upon valuable Considerations, from Men capable of performing them; to *direct* our own Actions either for *publick*, or *innocent private Good*, before we have submitted them to the Direction of others in any measure: and many others of like nature.

IMPERFECT *Rights* are *such as, when* ^{*Imperfect*} *universally violated, would not necessarily make* ^{*Rights.*} *Men miserable.* These *Rights* tend to the improvement and increase of *positive Good* in any Society, but are not *absolutely* necessary to prevent universal Misery. The Violation of them, only disappoints Men of the Happiness expected from the Humanity or Gratitude of others; but does not deprive Men of any *Good* which they had before. From this Description it appears, "That a violent Prosecution of such *Rights*, would generally occasion greater *Evil* than the Violation of them." Besides, the allowing of Force in such Cases, would deprive Men of the greatest Pleasure in Actions of *Kindness*,
T 4
Humanity,

ect. 7. *Humanity, Gratitude*; which would cease to appear amiable, when Men could be constrain'd to perform them. Instances of *imperfect Rights* are those which the *Poor* have to the Charity of the *Wealthy*; which *all Men* have to Offices of no trouble or expence to the Performer; which *Benefactors* have to returns of *Gratitude*, and such like,

THE Violation of *imperfect Rights*, only argues a Man to have such weak *Benevolence*, as not to study advancing the *positive Good* of others, when in the least opposite to his own: but the Violation of *perfect Rights*, argues the *injurIOUS Person* to be *positively evil* or *cruel*; or at least so *immoderately selfish*, as to be indifferent about the *positive Misery* and *Ruin* of others, when he imagines he can find his *Interest* in it. In violating the *former*, we shew a weak Desire of *publick Happiness*, which every small View of *private Interest* over-balances; but in violating the *latter*, we shew our selves so intirely negligent of the *Misery* of others, that Views of increasng our own *Good*, overcome all our Compassion toward their Sufferings. Now as the absence of *Good*, is more easily born than the presence of *Misery*; so our good *Wishes* toward the *positive Good* of others, are weaker than our *Compassion* toward their *Misery*. He then who violates *imperfect Rights*, shews that his *Self-love* overcomes only the Desire of *positive Good* to others; but

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but he who violates *perfect Rights*, betrays Sect. 7. such a *selfish* Desire of advancing his own *positive Good*, as overcomes all *Compassion* toward the *Misery* of others.

BESIDE these two sorts of *Rights*, there *External* is a third call'd *External*; as when *the doing, Rights.* *possessing, or demanding of any Thing is really detrimental to the publick in any particular Instance, as being contrary to the imperfect Right of another; but yet the universally denying Men this Faculty of doing, possessing, or demanding that Thing, or of using Force in pursuance of it, would do more mischief than all the Evils to be fear'd from the Use of this Faculty.* And hence it appears, "That
" there can be no Right to use Force in op-
" position even to *external Rights*, since it
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*What
Rights
can be
opposite.*

NOW whereas no *Action, Demand, or Possession*, can at once be either necessary to the *publick Good*, or conducive to it, and at the same time its *contrary* be either necessary or conducive to the same end; it follows, "That there can be no Opposition of *perfect Rights* among themselves, of *imperfect* among themselves, or between *perfect* and *imperfect Rights*." But it may often tend to the *publick Good*, to allow a *Right of doing, possessing, or demanding*, and of using *Force* in pursuance of it, while perhaps it would have been more *humane and kind* in any Person to have acted otherwise, and not have claim'd his *Right*. But yet a violent Opposition to *these Rights*, would have been vastly more *pernicious* than all the *Inhumanity* in the use of them. And therefore, tho *external Rights* cannot be opposite among themselves; yet they may be opposite to *imperfect Rights*; but *imperfect Rights*, tho violated, give no *Right to Force*. Hence it appears, "That there can never be a *Right to Force* on both Sides, or a *just War* on both Sides at the same time."

V. BUT that our first Ideas of *moral Good* depend not on *Laws*, may plainly appear from our constant Inquiries into the *Justice* of *Laws themselves*; and that not only of *human Laws*, but of the *divine*. What else can be the meaning of that universal Opinion, “That the *Laws* of *GOD* are *just*, “and *holy*, and *good*?” *Human Laws* may be call’d *good*, because of their Conformity to the *Divine*. But to call the *Laws* of the *supreme DEITY* *good*, or *holy*, or *just*, if all *Goodness*, *Holiness*, and *Justice* be constituted by *Laws*, or the *Will* of a *Superior* any way reveal’d, must be an insignificant Tautology, amounting to no more than this, “That “*GOD* *wills* what he *wills*.”

IT must then first be suppos’d that there is something in Actions which is apprehended *absolutely good*; and this is *Benevolence*, or desire of the *publick natural Happiness* of *rational Agents*; and that our *moral Sense* perceives this *Excellence*: and then we call the *Laws* of the *DEITY* *good*, when we imagine that they are contriv’d to promote the *publick Good* in the most effectual and impartial manner. And the *DEITY* is call’d *good*, in a *moral Sense*, when we apprehend that his *whole Providence* tends to the universal Happiness of his *Creatures*; whence we con-

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Sect. 7. clude his *Benevolence*, and *Desire* in their
 *Happiness*.

SOME tell us, " That the *Goodness* of
 " the *divine Laws*, consists in their Confor-
 " formity to some *essential Rectitude* of his
 " *Nature*." But they must excuse us from
 assenting to this, till they make us under-
 stand the meaning of this Metaphor, *essen-*
tial Rectitude ; and till we discern whether
 any thing more is meant by it than a *per-*
fectly wise, uniform, impartial Benevolence.

*Difference
 between
 Constraint
 and Obliga-*
tion.

HENCE we may see the Difference be-
 tween *Constraint* and *Obligation*. There is
 indeed no Difference between *Constraint*, and
 the second Sense of the word *Obligation*, viz.
a Constitution which makes an Action eligible
from Self-Interest, if we only mean *exter-*
nal Interest, distinct from the delightful Con-
 sciousness which arises from the *moral Sense*.
 The Reader need scarcely be told, that by
Constraint, we do not understand an *external*
Force moving our Limbs without our Con-
 sent, for in that Case we are not *Agents* at
 all ; but that *Constraint* which arises from
 the threatening and presenting some *Evil*, in
 order to make us act in a certain manner.
 And yet there seems a universally acknow-
 ledg'd Difference between even this sort of
Constraint, and *Obligation*. We never say
 we are *oblig'd* to do an Action which we
 count base, but we may be *constrain'd* to it :

we never say that the *divine Laws*, by their Sect. 7. Sanctions, *constrain* us, but *oblige* us; nor do we call Obedience to the DEITY *Constraint*, unless by a Metaphor, tho many own they are influenc'd by fear of Punishments. And yet supposing an *almighty evil Being* should require, under grievous Penaltys, *Treachery*, *Cruelty*, *Ingratitude*, we would call this *Constraint*. The difference is plainly this. When any Sanctions cooperate with our *moral Sense*, in exciting us to Actions which we count *morally good*, we say we are *oblig'd*; but when Sanctions of Rewards or Punishments oppose our *moral Sense*, then we say we are *brib'd* or *constrain'd*. In the former Case we call the *Lawgiver good*, as designing the *publick Happiness*; in the latter we call him *evil*, or *unjust*, for the suppos'd *contrary* Intention. But were all our Ideas of *moral Good* or *Evil*, deriv'd solely from Opinions of *private Advantage* or *Loss* in Actions, I see no possible difference which could be made in the meaning of these words.

VI. FROM this Sense too we derive our *Rights*. Ideas of RIGHTS. Whenever it appears to us, that a *Faculty of doing, demanding, or possessing any thing, universally allow'd in certain Circumstances, would in the whole tend to the general Good*, we say that one in such Circumstances, has a *Right to do, possess, or demand that Thing*. And according as

Se^{ct}. 7. this Tendency to the *publick Good* is *greater* or *less*, the *Right* is *greater* or *less*.


*Perfect
Rights.*

THE *Rights* call'd *perfect*, are of such necessity to the *publick Good*, that the *universal Violation* of them would make human Life intolerable; and it actually makes those miserable, whose *Rights* are thus violated. On the contrary, to fulfil these *Rights* in every Instance, tends to the *publick Good*, either directly, or by promoting the innocent Advantage of a *Part*. Hence it plainly follows, "That to allow a violent Defence, or Prosecution of such *Rights*, before Civil Government be constituted, cannot in any particular Case be more detrimental to the *Publick*, than the Violation of them with "Impunity." And as to the general Consequences, the universal Use of Force in a *State of Nature*, in pursuance of *perfect Rights*, seems exceedingly advantageous to the *Whole*, by making every one dread any Attempts against the *perfect Rights* of others.

*Right of
War, and
Punish-
ment.*

THIS is the *moral Effect* which attends proper Injury, or a Violation of the *perfect Rights* of others, viz. A *Right to War*, and all Violence which is necessary to oblige the *Injurious* to repair the Damage, and give Security against such Offences for the future. This is the sole Foundation of the *Rights* of punishing Criminals, and of violent Prosecutions of our *Rights*, in a *State of Nature*.
And

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And these Rights, naturally residing in the *Sect. 7.*
Persons injur'd, or their *voluntary*, or *invited* 
Assistants, to use Force according to the Judgment of indifferent Arbitrators, being by the Consent of the *Persons injur'd*, transferr'd to the *Magistrate* in a *Civil State*, are the true Foundation of his Right of Punishment. Instances of *perfect Rights* are those to our *Lives*; to the *Fruits* of our Labours; to demand Performance of *Contracts* upon valuable Considerations, from Men capable of performing them; to *direct* our own Actions either for *publick*, or *innocent private Good*, before we have submitted them to the Direction of others in any measure: and many others of like nature.

IMPERFECT *Rights* are *such as, when* *Imperfect*
universally violated, would not necessarily make *Rights.*
Men miserable. These *Rights* tend to the improvement and increase of *positive Good* in any Society, but are not *absolutely* necessary to prevent universal Misery. The Violation of them, only disappoints Men of the Happiness expected from the Humanity or Gratitude of others; but does not deprive Men of any *Good* which they had before. From this Description it appears, "That a violent
" Prosecution of such *Rights*, would gene-
" rally occasion greater *Evil* than the Viola-
" tion of them." Besides, the allowing of Force in such Cases, would deprive Men of the greatest Pleasure in Actions of *Kindness*,
T 4 *Humanity,*

Se&t. 7. *Humanity, Gratitude*; which would cease to appear amiable, when Men could be constrain'd to perform them. Instances of *imperfect Rights* are those which the *Poor* have to the Charity of the *Wealthy*; which *all Men* have to Offices of no trouble or expence to the Performer; which *Benefactors* have to returns of *Gratitude*, and such like,

THE Violation of *imperfect Rights*, only argues a Man to have such weak *Benevolence*, as not to study advancing the *positive Good* of others, when in the least opposite to his own: but the Violation of *perfect Rights*, argues the *injurious Person* to be *positively evil* or *cruel*; or at least so *immoderately selfish*, as to be indifferent about the *positive Misery* and *Ruin* of others, when he imagines he can find his *Interest* in it. In violating the *former*, we shew a weak Desire of *publick Happiness*, which every small View of *private Interest* over-balances; but in violating the *latter*, we shew our selves so intirely negligent of the *Misery* of others, that Views of increasing our own *Good*, overcome all our Compassion toward their Sufferings. Now as the absence of *Good*, is more easily born than the presence of *Misery*; so our good *Wishes* toward the *positive Good* of others, are weaker than our *Compassion* toward their *Misery*. He then who violates *imperfect Rights*, shews that his *Self-love* overcomes only the Desire of *positive Good* to others; but

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but he who violates *perfect Rights*, betrays Sect. 7. such a *selfish* Desire of advancing his own *positive Good*, as overcomes all *Compassion* toward the *Misery* of others.

BESIDE these two sorts of *Rights*, there *External* is a third call'd *External*; as when *the doing, Rights.* *possessing, or demanding of any Thing is really detrimental to the publick in any particular Instance, as being contrary to the imperfect Right of another; but yet the universally denying Men this Faculty of doing, possessing, or demanding that Thing, or of using Force in pursuance of it, would do more mischief than all the Evils to be fear'd from the Use of this Faculty.* And hence it appears, "That
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VII. THERE is another important Difference of *Rights*, according as they are *Ali-^{Rights}enable*, or *Unalienable*. To determine what *Rights* are *alienable*, and what not, we must *alienable*. take these two Marks :

1st. IF the Alienation be within our natural Power, so that it be possible for us in Fact to transfer our *Right* ; and if it be so, then,

2^{dly}. IT must appear, that to transfer such *Rights* may serve some valuable Purpose.

By the *first* Mark it appears, “ That the “ *Right* of *private Judgment*, or of our *inward Sentiments*, is *unalienable* ;” since we cannot command ourselves to think what either we our selves, or any other Person pleases. So are also our *internal Affections*, which necessarily arise according to our Opinions of their Objects. By the *second* Mark it appears, “ That our *Right* of *serving* “ GOD, in the manner which we think acceptable, is not *alienable* ;” because it can never serve any valuable purpose, to make Men worship him in a way which seems to them displeasing to him. The same way, a *direct Right* over our *Lives* or *Limbs*, is not *alienable* to any Person ; so that he might at Pleasure put us to death, or maim us. We have indeed

Sect. 7. deed a *Right* to hazard our Lives in any good Action which is of importance to the *Publick*; and it may often serve a most valuable end, to subject the direction of such perilous Actions to the Prudence of others in pursuing a *publick Good*; as *Soldiers* do to their *General*, or to a *Council of War*: and so far this *Right* is *alienable*. These may serve as Instances to shew the Use of the two Marks of *alienable Rights*, which must both concur to make them so, and will explain the manner of applying them in other Cases.

The Foundation of Property.

VIII. THAT we may see the Foundation of some of the more *important Rights* of *Mankind*, let us observe, that probably nine Tenths, at least, of the things which are useful to Mankind, are owing to their *Labour* and *Industry*; and consequently, when once Men become so numerous, that the *natural Product* of the Earth is not sufficient for their Support, or Ease, or innocent Pleasure; a necessity arises, for the support of the increasing *System*, that such a *Tenour* of Conduct be observ'd, as shall most effectually promote *Industry*; and that Men abstain from all Actions which would have the contrary effect. It is well known, that *general Benevolence* alone, is not a Motive strong enough to *Industry*, to bear *Labour* and *Toil*, and many other Difficultys which we are averse to from *Self-love*. For the strengthening therefore our Motives to *Industry*, we have

have the strongest Attractions of *Blood*, of Sect. 7. *Friendship*, of *Gratitude*, and the additional Motives of *Honour*, and even of *external Interest*. *Self-love* is really as necessary to the Good of the *Whole*, as *Benevolence*; as that *Attraction* which causes the Cohesion of the Parts, is as necessary to the *regular State* of the *Whole*, as *Gravitation*. Without these additional Motives, *Self-love* would generally oppose the Motions of *Benevolence*, and concur with *Malice*, or influence us to the same Actions which *Malice* would. "That Te-
 " nour of Action then, which would take
 " away the stronger Ties of *Benevolence*, or
 " the additional Motives of *Honour* and *Ad-
 " vantage*, from our *Minds*, and so hinder
 " us from pursuing *industriously* that Course
 " which really increases the Good of the
 " *Whole*, is *evil*; and we are oblig'd to shun
 " it."

FIRST then, the depriving any Person of the Fruits of his own innocent Labour, takes away all Motives to *Industry* from *Self-love*, or the nearer *Ties*; and leaves us no other Motive than *general Benevolence*: nay, it exposes the *Industrious* as a constant Prey to the *Slothful*, and sets *Self-love* against *Industry*. This is the Ground of our *Right of Dominion* and *Property* in the *Fruits* of our *Labours*; without which *Right*, we could scarce hope for any *Industry*, or any thing beyond the Product of uncultivated Nature.

Industry

Sect. 7. *Industry* will be confin'd to our present Necessitys, and cease when they are provided for; at least it will only continue from the weak Motive of *general Benevolence*, if we are not allow'd to store up beyond present Necessity, and to dispose of what is above our Necessitys, either in Barter for other kinds of Necessarys, or for the Service of our Friends or Familys. And hence appears the *Right* which Men have to lay up for the *future*, the Goods which will not be spoil'd by it; of alienating them in *Trade*; of Donation to *Friends, Children, Relations*: otherwise we deprive *Industry* of all the Motives of *Self-love, Friendship, Gratitude, and natural Affection*. The same Foundation there is for the *Right* of Disposition by *Testament*. The *Presumption* of this Disposition, is the Ground of the *Right* of Succession to the *Intestate*.

THE *external Right* of the *Miser* to his useless Hoards, is founded also on this, that allowing Persons by Violence, or without Consent of the Acquirer, to take the Use of his Acquisitions, would discourage *Industry*, and take away all the Pleasures of *Generosity, Honour, Charity*, which cease when Men can be forc'd to these Actions. Besides, there is no determining in many Cases, who is a *Miser*, and who is not.

MARRIAGE must be so constituted as to ascertain the Offspring; otherwise we take away from the *Males* one of the strongest Motives to *publick Good*, viz. *natural Affection*; and discourage *Industry*, as has been shewn above.

Right of Marriage.

THE *Labour* of each Man cannot furnish *Commerce* him with all Necessaries, tho it may furnish him with a needless Plenty of one sort: Hence the *Right of Commerce*, and *alienating* our Goods; and also the *Rights* *from* *Contracts* and *Promises*, either to the Goods acquir'd by others, or to their *Labours*.

THE great Advantages which accrue to Mankind from unprejudic'd *Arbitrators*, im- *Right of Civil Government.* power'd to decide the *Controversys* which ordinarily arise, thro' the partiality of *Self-love*, among Neighbours; as also from prudent Directors, who should not only instruct the Multitude in the best Methods of promoting the *publick Good*, and of defending themselves against mutual or foreign *Injurys*; but also be arm'd with Force sufficient to make their Decrees or Orders effectual at home, and the Society formidable abroad: these Advantages, I say, sufficiently shew the *Right Men* have to constitute *Civil Government*, and to subject their *alienable Rights* to the Disposal of their Governors, under such *Limitations* as their Prudence suggests. And

Sect. 7. as far as the People have subjected their *Rights*, so far their Governors have an *external Right*, at least, to dispose of them, as their Prudence shall direct, for attaining the Ends of their Institution ; and no farther.

Corollarys
for compar-
ing the
degrees of
Virtue and
Vice in Ac-
tions.

IX. THESE Instances may shew how our *moral Sense*, by a little Reflection upon the tendencys of Actions, may adjust the *Rights* of *Mankind*. Let us now apply the general Canon laid down above*, for comparing the Degrees of *Virtue* and *Vice* in Actions, in a few Corollarys besides that one already deduc'd ‡.

From A-
bility.

I. THE Disappointment, in whole or in part, of any Attempt, *Good* or *Evil*, if it be occasion'd only by external Force, or any unforeseen Accident, does not vary the *moral Good*, or *Evil*; for as in *good* Attempts, the *Moment* of *Good*, or [M] is diminish'd, or vanishes in such a case, so does the *Ability*, or [A] likewise : The *Quotient* then may still be the same. This holds equally in *evil* Attempts. So that Actions are not to be judg'd *good* or *evil* by the Events, any farther than they might have been foreseen by the *Agent* in *evil* Attempts; or were actually intended, if they were *good*, in *good* Actions ; for then

Vol. II. Art. 11, 12.

* 11. Par. 3.

only they argue either *Love* or *Hatred* in the Sect. 7. *Agent*. 

2. SECULAR Rewards annex'd to *Virtue*, *Interest*. and actually influencing the *Agent* farther than his *Benevolence* would, diminish the *moral Good* as far as they were necessary to move the *Agent* to the Action, or to make him do more *Good* than otherwise he would have done ; for by increasing the *Interest*, or [I] *positive*, to be subtracted, they diminish the *Benevolence*. But *additional Interests* which were not necessary to have mov'd the *Agent*, such as the *Rewards* of a *good Being* for Actions which he would have undertaken without a Reward, do not diminish the *Virtue*. In this however no Mortal is capable of judging another. Nor do the Prospects of *grateful* Returns for Benefits which we would have conferr'd gratuitously, diminish the *Generosity*. This Corollary may be apply'd to the *Rewards* of a *future State*, if any Person conceives them distinct from the Pleasures of *Virtue* itself: If they be not conceiv'd as something distinct from those Pleasures, then the very Desire of them is a strong Evidence of a *virtuous Disposition*.

3. EXTERNAL *Advantage* exciting us to Actions of *evil* Tendency to others, if without this Prospect of *Advantage* we would not have undertaken them, diminishes the *Evil*
U of

Sect. 7. of the Action ; such as the Prospects of great Rewards, of avoiding Tortures, or even the uneasy Sollicitations of violent selfish Passions. This is commonly called the greatness of Temptation. The reason of this is the same with that in the former Case, since

$$H = \frac{\mu - I}{A}.$$

We may here also remember again, that we are more uneasy upon the presence of Pain, than upon the absence of Good ; and hence Torture is a more extenuating Circumstance than Bribes, engaging us to Evil, because [I] is greater.

Detriment. 4. THE surmounting the uneasy Sollicitations of the selfish Passions, increases the Virtue of a benevolent Action, and much more worldly Losses, Toil, &c. for now the Interest becomes negative ; the Subtraction of which increases the Quantity.

5. A MALICIOUS Action is made the more odious by all its foreseen Disadvantages to the Agent, for the same reason : particularly,

Knowledge of Laws, how it affects Actions. 6. THE Knowledge of a Law prohibiting an evil Action, increases the Evil by increasing the negative Interest to be subtracted ; for then the ill-natur'd Inclination must be so strong as to surmount all the Motives of ~~the~~ avoid the Penalties, and all the ~~irude~~ toward the Law-giver. This

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This is commonly call'd *sinning against Con-* Sect. 7.
science. ~~~~~


7. OFFICES of no *Toil* or *Expende*, have little *Virtue* generally, because the *Ability* is very great, and there is no *contrary Interest* surmounted.

8. BUT the refusing of them may be very *vitious*, as it argues an absence of good *Affection*, and often produces a great enough *Moment of natural Evil*. And,

9. IN general, the fulfilling the *Perfect Degree of Rights* of others has little *Virtue* in it: for ^{*Right*} thereby no *Moment of Good* is produc'd more than there was before; and the *Interest* engaging to the Action is very great, even the avoiding all the Evils of *War* in a *State of Nature*.

10. BUT the *violating perfect*, or even *external Rights*, is always *exceedingly evil*, either in the immediate, or more remote *Consequences* of the Action; and the *selfish Motives* surmounted by this *vitious Inclination*, are the same with those in the former Case.

11. The truest Matter of Praise are those Actions or Offices which others claim from us by an *imperfect Right*; and generally, the stronger their *Right* is, there is the less

Sect. 7. *Virtue* in fulfilling it, but the greater *Vice* in
 violating it.

*Strength
of Ties.*

LEMMA. The stronger Ties of *Benevolence*, in *equal Abilitys*, must produce a greater *Moment* of *Good*, in *equally good Characters*, than the weaker Ties. Thus, *natural Affection*, *Gratitude*, *Friendship*, have greater Effects than *general Benevolence*. Hence,

12. IN *equal Moments* of *Good* produc'd by two *Agents*, when one acts from *general Benevolence*, and the other from a *nearer Tie*; there is greater *Virtue* in the *Agent*, who produces *equal Good* from the weaker Attachment; and less *Virtue*, where there is the stronger Attachment, which yet produces no more. The general Benevolence also appears of it self a more amiable Principle, according to the Constitution of our moral Sense *.

13. BUT the Omission of the *good Offices* of the stronger Ties, or Actions *contrary* to them, have greater *Vice* in them, than the like Omissions or Actions contrary to the weaker Ties; since our *Selfishness* or *Malice* must appear the greater, by the strength of the contrary Attachment which it surmounts. Thus, in cooperating with *Gratitude*, *natural Affection*, or *Friendship*, we evidence

* See Sect. 3. Art. ix. & Art. x. § 2.

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less *Virtue* in any given Moment of Good pro-Sect. 7.
duc'd, than in equally important Actions of
general Benevolence: But Ingratitude to a
Benefactor, Negligence of the Interests of
a Friend, or Relation; or Returns of evil
Offices, are vastly more odious, than equal
Negligence, or evil Offices toward Strangers.

14. WHEN we cannot at once follow two
different Inclinations of Benevolence, we are
to prefer gratifying the stronger Inclination;
according to the wise Order of NATURE,
which has constituted these Attachments.
Thus, we are rather to be Grateful than Li-
beral; rather serve a Friend, or Kinsman,
than a Stranger of only equal Virtue, when
we cannot do both.


15. OR more generally, since there can
be no Right, Claim, or Obligation to Impossi-
bilities; when two Actions to be done by any
Agent, would both tend to the good of Man-
kind, but they cannot be perform'd both at
once; that which occasions most Good is to
be done, if the Omission of the other occasi-
ons no prepollent Evil. If the omission of
either, will occasion some new natural Evil,
that is to be omitted, whose Omission will
occasion the least Evil. Thus, if two Per-
sons of unequal Dignity be in Danger, we
are to relieve the more valuable, when we
cannot relieve both. Ingratitude, as it evi-
dences a worse Temper than neglect of Be-

Sect. 7. *negligence*; so it raises worse Sentiments in the Benefactor, and greater Diffidence, and Suspicion of his Fellow-Creatures, than an Omission of an Act of Beneficence: we ought therefore to be *Grateful*, rather than *Beneficent*, when we cannot (in any particular Case) evidence both Dispositions. If omitting of one Action will occasion *new positive Evil*, or continuance in a State of *Pain*, whereas the Omission of another would only prevent some *new positive Good*; since a State of *Pain* is a greater Evil, than the absence of Good, we are to follow *Compassion*, rather than *Kindness*; and relieve the *Distressed*, rather than increase the Pleasures of the *Easy*; when we cannot do both at once, and other Circumstances of the Objects are equal. In such Cases, we should not suppose *contrary Obligations*, or *Duties*; the more important Office is our *present Duty*, and the Omission of the less important inconsistent Office at present, is no *moral Evil*.

The Original of Government.

X. FROM *Art. vii.* it follows, " That all human *Power*, or *Authority*, must consist in a *Right transferr'd to any Person or Council, to dispose of the alienable Rights of others*; and that consequently, there can be no Government so absolute, as to have even an *external Right* to do or command every thing." For wherever any Invasion is made upon *unalienable Rights*, there must arise either a *perfect*, or *external Right* to *Resistance*,

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Resistance. The only Restraints of a moral Sect. 7.
Kind upon Subjects in such cases, are, when 
they foresee that, thro' their want of Force,
they shall probably by Resistance occasion
greater Evils to the Publick, than those
they attempt to remove; or when they
find that *Governors*, in the main very use-
ful to the Publick, have by some unadvise-
d Passion, done an Injury too small to o-
ver-balance the Advantages of their Ad-
ministration, or the Evils which Resistance
would in all likelihood occasion; especially
when the Injury is of a private Nature,
and not likely to be made a Precedent to
the ruin of others. *Unalienable Rights* are
essential Limitations in all Governments.


BUT by *absolute Government*, either in *Absolute*
Prince, or *Council*, or in *both jointly*, we *Govern-*
understand a *Right to dispose of the natural*
Force, and Goods of a whole People, as far
as they are naturally alienable, according to
the Prudence of the Prince, Council, or of
both jointly, for the publick Good of the State,
or whole People; without any Reservation as
to the Quantity of the Goods, manner of Le-
vying, or the proportion of the Labours of
the Subject, which they shall demand. But
in all States this *tacit Trust* is presuppos'd,
“ That the Power conferr'd shall be em-
ploy'd according to the best Judgment
“ of the Rulers for the publick Good.” So
that whenever the *Governors* openly profess

Sect. 7. a Design of destroying the State, or act in such a manner as will necessarily do it; the *essential Trust*, suppos'd in all conveyance of *Civil Power*, is violated, and the *Grant* thereby made void.

Limited
Govern-
ment.

A PRINCE, or Council, or both jointly, may be variously Limited; *either when the Consent of the one may be necessary to the Validity of the Acts of the other; or when, in the very Constitution of this supreme Power, certain Affairs are expressly exempted from the Jurisdiction of the Prince, or Council, or both jointly*: as when several independent States uniting, form a general Council, from whose Cognizance they expressly reserve certain Privileges, in the very Formation of this Council; or when in the very Constitution of any State, a certain Method of *Election* of the Person of the Prince, or of the Members of the supreme Council, is determin'd, and the *Intention* of their Assembling declar'd. In all such cases, it is not in the Power of such Prince, Council, or both jointly, to alter the very *Form of Government*, or to take away that Right which the People have to be govern'd in such a manner, by a Prince, or Council thus elected, without the universal Consent of the very People who have subjected themselves to this Form of Government. So that there may be a very *regular State*, where there is no universal absolute Power, lodg'd either in one Person, or Council,

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cil, or in any other Assembly beside that of Sect. ; the whole People associated into that State.  To say, that upon a Change attempted in the very *Form of the Government*, by the *supreme Power*, the People have no Remedy according to the Constitution itself, will not prove that the *supreme Power* has such a *Right* ; unless we confound all Ideas of *Right* with those of *external Force*. The only Remedy indeed in that Case, is an universal Insurrection against such *perfidious Trustees*.

DESPOTICK Power, is that which Per-^{The Na-}
sons injur'd may acquire over those Criminals, ^{ture of L}
whose Lives, consistently with the publick Safe-^{spotick}
ty, they may prolong, that by their Labours
they may repair the Damages they have done ;
or over those who stand oblig'd to a greater
Value, than all their Goods and Labours can
possibly amount to. This Power itself, is li-
mited to the Goods and Labours only of the
Criminals or Debtors ; and includes no Right
to *Tortures*, *Prostitution*, or any Rights of
the Governed which are *naturally Unaliena-
ble* : or to any thing which is not of some
Moment toward *Repair of Damage*, *Pay-
ment of Debt*, or *Security against future Of-
fences*. The Characteristick of *Despotick
Power*, is this, " that it is solely intended
" for the good of the Governors, without
" any *tacit Trust* of consulting the good of
" the Governed." Despotick Government,
1 in

298 *An INQUIRY concerning*

Sect. 7. in this Sense, is directly inconsistent with the
 Notion of Civil Government.

FROM the Idea of *Right*, as above explain'd, we must necessarily conclude, "That
 " there can be no *Right*, or *Limitation of*
 " *Right*, inconsistent with, or opposite to the
 " greatest publick Good." And therefore
 in Cases of *extreme Necessity*, when the State
 cannot otherwise be preserv'd from Ruin, it
 must certainly be *just* and *Good* in limited
 Governors, or in any other Persons who
 can do it, to use the Force of the State for
 its own Preservation, beyond the Limits fix'd
 by the *Constitution*, in some *transitory Acts*,
 which are not to be made *Precedents*. And
 on the other hand, when an *equal Necessity*
 to avoid Ruin requires it, the Subjects may
 justly resume the Powers ordinarily lodg'd in
 their Governors, or may counteract them.
 This Privilege of *flagrant Necessity*, we
 all allow in defense of the most perfect *private Rights*: And if *publick Rights* are of
 more extensive Importance, so are also *publick Necessitys*. These Necessitys must be
 very grievous and flagrant, otherwise they
 can never over-balance the *Evils* of violat-
 ing a tolerable Constitution, by an *arbitrary*
Act of Power, on the one hand; or by an
 Insurrection, or Civil War, on the other.
 No Person, or State can be happy, where
 they do not think their *important Rights*
 are secur'd from the *Cruelty, Avarice, Am-*
bition,

bition, or *Caprice* of their Governors. Nor Sect. 7. can any *Magistracy* be safe, or effectual for the ends of its Institution, where there are frequent Terrors of *Insurrections*. Whatever *temporary Acts* therefore may be allow'd in extraordinary Cases; whatever may be lawful in the *transitory Act* of a bold Legislator, who without previous Consent should rescue a slavish Nation, and place their Affairs so in the Hands of a *Person*, or *Council*, *elected*, or *limited* by themselves, that they should soon have Confidence in their own Safety, and in the Wisdom of the Administration; yet, as to the fixed State which should ordinarily obtain in all Communitys, since no *Assumer* of Government can so demonstrate his superior Wisdom or Goodness to the satisfaction and security of the Governed, as is necessary to their Happiness; this must follow, " That except when Men, " for their *own Interest*, or out of *publick* " *Love*, have by *Consent* subjected their " Actions, or their Goods within certain Limits to the Disposal of others; no Mortal can have a *Right* from his *superior Wisdom*, or *Goodness*, or any *other Quality*, to " give Laws to others without their *Consent*, " *express* or *tacit*; or to dispose of the *Fruits* " of their Labours, or of any other *Right* " whatsoever." And therefore *superior Wisdom*, or *Goodness*, gives no *Right* to Men to govern others.

Sect. 7.

Divine Government
founded on
Wisdom
and Good-
ness.

BUT then with relation to the DEITY, suppos'd *omniscient* and *benevolent*, and secure from *Indigence*, the ordinary Cause of Injuriys toward others; it must be *amiable* in such a *Being*, to assume the Government of *weak, inconstant Creatures*, often misled by *Selfishness*; and to give them Laws. To these Laws every Mortal should submit from *publick Love*, as being contriv'd for the *Good of the Whole*, and for the *greatest private-Good* consistent with it; and every one may be sure, that he shall be better directed how to attain these Ends by the *Divine Laws*, than by his own greatest Prudence and Circumspection. Hence we imagine, "That a *good and wise GOD* must have a *perfect Right* to govern the *Universe*; and that all *Mortals* are oblig'd to *universal Obedience*."

Divine
Justice
what.

THE *Justice* of the DEITY is only a Conception of his *universal impartial Benevolence*, as it shall influence him, if he gives any Laws, to attemper them to the *universal Good*, and enforce them with the most effectual Sanctions of *Rewards* and *Punishments*.

Creation
not the
Ground of
God's Do-
minion.

XI. SOME imagine that the *Property* the *Creator* has in all his Works, must be the *true Foundation* of his *Right* to govern. Among Men indeed, we find it necessary for the *publick Good*, that none should arbitrarily dispose

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dispose of the Goods acquir'd by the Labour Sect. 7. of another, which we call his *Property*; and hence we imagine that *Creation* is the *only* Foundation of G O D's *Dominion*. But if the Reason * of establishing the *Rights* of *Property* does not hold against a *perfectly wise* and *benevolent Being*, I see no Reason why *Property* should be necessary to his *Dominion*. Now the Reason does not hold: For an *infinitely wise* and *good Being*, could never employ his assumed Authority to counteract the *universal Good*. The tie of *Gratitude* is stronger indeed than bare *Benevolence*; and therefore supposing two *equally wise* and *good Beings*, the one our *Creator*, and the other not, we should think our selves more oblig'd to obey our *Creator*. But supposing our *Creator* *malicious*, and a *good Being* condescending to rescue us, or govern us better, with sufficient Power to accomplish his kind Intentions; his *Right* to govern would be perfectly good. But this is rather Matter of curious Speculation than Use; since both Titles of *Benevolence* and *Property* concur in the *one only true* D E I T Y, as far as we can know, join'd with *infinite Wisdom* and *Power*.


XII. I F it be here inquir'd, " Could not ^{Our Moral} the D E I T Y have given us a *different* or ^{Sense the} *contrary determination* of Mind, viz. to ^{Effect of} the Divine ^{Goodness.} *approve* Actions upon another Foundation

* See Art. 10. Par. 6. of this Section.

" than

Sect. 7. "than *Benevolence*?" There seems nothing
 in this surpassing the natural Power of the
 DEITY. But as in the first Treatise *, we
 resolv'd the Constitution of our present *Sense*
 of *Beauty* into the *divine Goodness*, so with
 much more obvious Reason may we ascribe
 the present Constitution of our *moral Sense*
 to his *Goodness*. For if the DEITY be real-
 ly *benevolent*, and desires the Happiness of o-
 thers, he could not *rationaly* act otherwise,
 or give us a *moral Sense* upon another Foun-
 dation, without counteracting his own *be-
 nevolent Intentions*. For, even upon the
 Supposition of a *contrary Sense*, every *ratio-
 nal Being* must still have been solicitous in
 some degree about his own external Happi-
 ness: Reflection on the Circumstances of
 Mankind in this World would have suggest-
 ed, that *universal Benevolence* and a *social
 Temper*, or a *certain Course* of external Acti-
 ons, would most effectually promote the *ex-
 ternal Good* of every one, according to the
 Reasonings of CUMBERLAND and PU-
 FENDORF; while at the same time this
perverted Sense of *Morality* would have made
 us uneasy in such a Course, and inclin'd us
 to the quite contrary, viz. *Barbarity, Cru-
 elty, and Fraud*; and *universal War*, accord-
 ing to Mr. HOBBS, would really have been
 our *natural State*; so that in every Action
 we must have been distracted by two contra-

* Sect. viii. Art. 2. Prop. 5.

ry Principles, and perpetually miserable, and Sect. 7.
dissatisfy'd when we follow'd the Directions 
of either.

XIII. IT has often been taken for granted ^{Whence}
in *these Papers*, " That the DEITY is *mo-* ^{this uni-}
" *rally good* ;" tho the Reasoning is not at all ^{versal Opi-}
built upon this Supposition. If we inquire ^{nion of the}
into the Reason of the great Agreement of ^{Divine}
Mankind in this Opinion, we shall perhaps ^{Goodness.}
find no demonstrative Arguments *a priori*,
from the Idea of an *Independent Being*, to
prove his *Goodness*. But there is abundant
Probability, deduc'd from the whole *Frame*
of *Nature*, which seems, as far as we know,
plainly contriv'd for the *Good* of the *Whole* ;
and the casual Evils seem the necessary Con-
comitants of some Mechanism design'd for
prepollent *Good*. Nay, this very *moral Sense*,
implanted in *rational Agents*, to approve and
admire whatever Actions flow from a Study
of the *Good* of *others*, is one of the strongest
Evidences of *Goodness* in the AUTHOR of
Nature.

BUT these Reflections are not so universal
as the Opinion, nor are they often inculca-
ted. What then more probably leads *Man-*
kind into that Opinion, is this. The obvious
Frame of the *World* gives us Ideas of *boundless*
Wisdom and *Power* in its AUTHOR. Such
a *Being* we cannot conceive *indigent*, and
must conclude *happy*, and in the *best State*
possible,

Sect. 7. possible, since he can still gratify himself.
 ~~~~~ The *best State* of *rational Agents*, and their *greatest* and most *worthy Happiness*, we are necessarily led to imagine must consist in *universal efficacious Benevolence*: and hence we conclude the DEITY *benevolent* in the most *universal impartial manner*. Nor can we well imagine what else deserves the Name of *Perfection* more than *Benevolence*, and those *Capacitys* or *Abilitys* which are necessary to make it *effectual*; such as *Wisdom*, and *Power*: at least we can have no more lovely Conception of it.

---

F I N I S.









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